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Men, you can wear (Barbie) pink now



How the super-rich get a good night's sleep

INSIDE TIMES 2

Has humanity's handiwork pushed Earth into a new epoch?

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

The world has taken a significant step towards entering a new geological epoch defined by humanity's impact.

A forest-fringed lake on the outskirts of Toronto was selected by geologists yesterday as the best place to show that the Anthropocene has begun.

An epoch is one of the smaller geo-

logical units of time, ranging in length from thousands to tens of millions of years. Many experts believe that humanity's burning of coal, nuclear weapons testing, plastic pollution, use of concrete and fishing have altered the planet so much we are now in a new epoch. Earth has been in the Holocene epoch for about 12,000 years, a period with temperatures stable enough for

civilisation to flourish. But this could make way for the Anthropocene, which is believed to have started in the 1950s.

Geologists selected Crawford Lake in Canada as the best location globally to mark the birthplace of the Anthropocene because the sediments preserved at the bottom hold a record of humanity's impact. The small lake — roughly the size of three football pitches and 24

metres deep — won several rounds of voting by 34 geologists from the Anthropocene Working Group (AWG). The team, made up of experts from around the world, chose Crawford from 12 potential sites, including a Japanese bay and an Australian coral reef.

The announcement in Berlin is a significant step towards formally establishing a new epoch, the AWG said.

Colin Waters, the group's chairman from the University of Leicester, said evidence from across the sites "shows you that there is this very significant, very rapid change to the environment."

The International Commission on Stratigraphy, the arbiter of geological units of time, is due to vote next year on whether to adopt the new epoch.

Lake reveals human impact, page 11

Dating app user 'was sent abuse by BBC star'

Presenter urged to identify himself amid new claims

Alex Farber Media Correspondent
Ben Ellery
Fiona Hamilton Crime Editor

A young person has approached the BBC with claims they felt threatened by the presenter at the centre of a scandal about paying for explicit pictures.

The individual, who is in their early twenties, told BBC News that they were first contacted anonymously by the high-profile male presenter via a dating app. They say they were pressured to meet up but declined and were then threatened with abusive, expletive-filled messages when they hinted that they might expose the star online.

The presenter is already facing accusations of wrongdoing after the mother of another young person claimed they had been paid £35,000 by the star for explicit images, which had been used to fund a crack cocaine addiction.

Last night a separate 23-year-old person told The Sun that the presenter had visited them for one hour during the Covid lockdown in February 2021. They told the newspaper that they first met on a dating app and after exchanging messages on WhatsApp, which The Sun claims to have seen, the pair met at the person's home outside London.

"I was quite shocked that he broke the rules," they told the newspaper. "We just chatted. He was obsessed with me making him a cup of tea."

The presenter allegedly made three payments of £200 each to the person, the newspaper said, adding that the

claims had been put to the presenter.

Responding to the latest allegation, a BBC source told The Times: "That Sun story [is] not good at all. It's so hard to know how to deal with this as the BBC. Nightmares every way we turn."

Yesterday Jeremy Vine, the Radio 2 host, called on the presenter to identify himself to stop other BBC stars from being falsely accused.

He said: "He should now come forward publicly. These new allegations will result in yet more vitriol being thrown at perfectly innocent colleagues of his. And the BBC, which I'm sure he loves, is on its knees with this."

Rishi Sunak, the prime minister, has intervened in the controversy, calling the original claim "shocking" in response to questions during his trip to Lithuania for a Nato summit.

Tim Davie, director-general of the BBC, published the corporation's annual report yesterday. The virtual event was dominated by questions over the broadcaster's handling of the scandal. In a press conference he said the BBC would consider overhauling its "red flag" processes surrounding serious complaints about top stars.

As Davie set out a detailed timeline of events involving the initial complaint, first reported in The Sun last week, it emerged that the BBC did not speak to the presenter about the allegations after they were first made in May. They were raised with the star only last week as the newspaper prepared to publish

Continued on page 2



President Zelensky of Ukraine and his wife, Olena Zelenska, arrive for a dinner hosted by President Nauseda of Lithuania during the Nato summit in Vilnius

Zelensky hits out at Nato's 'vague' offer for Ukraine

George Grylls
Defence Correspondent in Vilnius
Oliver Moody

President Zelensky has denounced the "absurd" decision to not offer a clear timetable for Ukraine to join Nato once the war with Russia is over.

The Ukrainian president arrived in Vilnius yesterday for the Nato summit after western countries refused to offer Kyiv an unconditional route to joining the defensive alliance.

Zelensky's car was met with applause as it drove through the cobbled streets of the capital of Lithuania, which was part of the Soviet Union until 1990, and large crowds turned out to watch him deliver an emotional speech.

He expressed his deep disappointment, however, at the "vague wording" of a joint communiqué issued by Nato leaders after the US and Germany refused to set out a timetable for Ukraine's admittance. Kyiv had been lobbying for the text to go further but the final statement simply said that "Ukraine's future is in Nato" with a promise to "extend an invitation to Ukraine to join the alliance when allies agree and conditions are met".

Zelensky said: "I travelled here today with faith in a solution, with faith in our partners, with faith in a strong Nato."

He tweeted that Ukraine "deserves respect" and that it was "unprecedented and absurd" for it to be invited to join Nato with no timeline attached.

Rishi Sunak said Ukraine's "rightful place" was in Nato but refused to set out a timeframe. The prime minister told reporters on the flight to Lithuania: "The Ukrainians themselves and the defence minister have said that's not a question for right now while they're in the midst of a conflict."

Sunak has announced a new package of military aid for Ukraine that will include more than 70 combat and logistics vehicles as well as a new batch of shells tipped with depleted uranium to use in Challenger 2 tanks.

Britain seeks to reassure Kyiv, page 8
Putin wanted less Nato — he's now getting more, leading article, page 23

News

Today's highlights

7.50am Lisa Nandy, shadow levelling-up secretary

9.05am Scarlet Howes, reporter for The Sun

12.45pm Two Door Cinema Club's Kevin Baird and manager Colin Schaverien on the impact of Brexit on touring

3.35pm The actor David Tennant, right, talks about the second series of Good Omens

8.30pm Dorothy Estrada-Tanck, chairwoman of the UN's group on discrimination against women, on the situation in Afghanistan

TIMES RADIO

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TODAY'S EDITION

May attacks migration bill

Theresa May warned the Commons that legislation to tackle migrant crossings of the Channel would "consign more people to slavery". MPs rejected a string of changes made by the Lords to the government's Illegal Migration Bill. Page 6

Primary pupils falling behind

Primary school pupils in England are still doing worse than before the pandemic in maths and writing while reading has stalled, official test results show. Fewer than three fifths are reaching the expected standard in all of the three Rs. Page 10

Mortgages near 'tipping point'

Nationwide, Britain's biggest building society, has warned that rising mortgage rates are near a "tipping point" beyond which switching to an interest-only deal will not soften the blow for households. Rates on two-year deals have hit 6.66 per cent. Page 16

105

days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia
#FreeEvan



Staff afraid of Biden's temper

President Biden is so prone to angry outbursts behind the scenes that some White House staff are now afraid to face him alone. Two authors who have interviewed staff say that the US president's anger tends to flare up when he feels boxed in. Page 25

Microsoft and watchdog truce

A truce has been declared in court proceedings between Microsoft and the UK's competition watchdog as they attempt to reach an agreement over the software giant's \$69 billion takeover of Activision Blizzard, the gaming company. Page 29

We had to cut deal, says PGA

PGA Tour officials have told a US Senate committee that LIV Golf's Saudi backers could "gut us in five years" if it had not negotiated a peace deal with the country's sovereign wealth fund. They accused LIV of "attempting to destroy golf". Page 64

COMMENT 19
THUNDERER 20
LEADING ARTICLES 23

WORLD 24
BUSINESS 29
REGISTER 43

SPORT 53
CROSSWORD 64
TV & RADIO TIMES 2

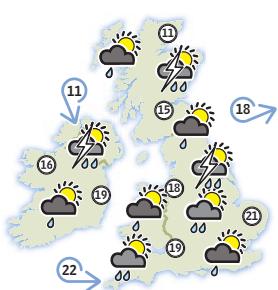
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THE WEATHER



Showers or longer spells of rain, turning heavy and thundery at times. Full forecast, page 52

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Sunak backs Gove over lifting pollution curbs on new homes

Oliver Wright, Adam Vaughan

Rishi Sunak has backed plans to lift a ban imposed by the environment watchdog that is blocking the construction of tens of thousands of properties.

The Times understands that the prime minister has intervened in a stand-off between Michael Gove, the housing secretary, and Thérèse Coffey, the environment secretary, over rules imposed by Natural England that have brought housing developments to a halt across large swathes of the country.

More than 70 councils have had to block up to 120,000 new homes because of concerns about the potential additional pollution of local rivers.

Under so-called nutrient neutrality rules, developers can only get planning permission if they offset the impact of extra sewage from new homes by working elsewhere in the catchment area to balance out the additional pollution. That typically involves creating wetlands to strip out excess nitrogen and phosphate pollution in rivers.

Water companies are due to upgrade works to reduce the issue, but critics warn that the government needs to take action faster to unblock

developments before the general election.

A senior government source said that Sunak was "minded" to support a move by Gove to change the law to allow developments to go ahead in advance of sewage treatment works being upgraded, expected to be included in the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill now going through parliament.

Sunak's intervention follows months of wrangling between Gove's levelling-up department, responsible for housing, and Coffey's environment department, Defra. One government source said "it would be fair to say that Michael and Thérèse don't see eye to eye on this", adding that Defra was worried about a "backlash from the environmental movement". The Times's Clean It Up campaign has also urged the government to keep the rules.

Tony Juniper, chairman of Natural England, said: "Nutrient neutrality is established in law and has been tested in the courts. It rightly prevents wastewater from new housing developments adding to pollution in areas internationally protected because of their unique value to nature and wildlife."

He added: "We simply cannot halt

and reverse the decline in nature or improve the quality of our rivers — as the government has legally committed itself to doing and is rightly demanded by the public — if we don't mitigate the impact of pollution sources."

Water campaigners said that ditching the protections would be disastrous in areas already under pressure from sewage and farm pollution, with only 14 per cent of English rivers considered to be in "good" ecological condition.

James Wallace, chief executive of River Action, a charity that supports community river groups around the country, said: "It is absolutely absurd for the government to roll back on this."

However, a spokesman for the Home Builders Federation said that a failure to act would have a devastating impact on pressing housing needs, adding: "Builders are going out of business and around 145,000 desperately needed homes are on hold, despite the fact that their construction would have a negligible impact on river pollution."

A government spokesman said: "We recognise the urgency of this issue and have taken substantial steps to both unlock housing and address the underlying causes of nutrient pollution."

MP's Hong Kong meeting 'targeted by Chinese spy'

Debbie White

A spy under the direction of China tried to gatecrash a private House of Commons meeting with Hong Kong dissidents, pro-democracy campaigners have claimed.

When questioned about his attempted entry to the invitation-only talks in a committee room, he replied that he was a tourist who had been directed to the secluded area as part of an official tour, it was reported last night.

The alleged spy also provided a name not on the approved list and refused to say who he was representing, according to the Daily Mail. The brief stand-off, which ended with the man's departure from the Houses of Parliament, took place at a meeting addressed by the British-based activists Christopher Mung and Finn Lau. Authorities in the former British territory have issued arrest warrants for Lau and Mung, as well as six other activists who fled to Britain, the United States, Canada and Australia, for alleged breaches of the national security law imposed by Beijing. China has accused Britain of harbouring "fugitives" wanted by Hong

Kong after police offered bounties of £100,000 for information leading to the capture of eight pro-democracy activists based overseas.

On July 5, Bob Seely, 57, the Tory MP, hosted a private briefing on the situation in Hong Kong, attended by around 200 politicians, peers, journalists and campaigners. The meeting was held in committee room 19 on the top floor, far from the areas usually visited by tourists, said the newspaper, and some Hong Kongers had covered their faces during the event, as they feared for their safety. Seely, a member of the foreign affairs committee, said: "If this was a Chinese Communist Party spy, then it is yet another example of this regime's cack-handed, malign incompetence. It would be completely inappropriate for Beijing to send an operative to intimidate or record people inside a private parliamentary event."

Lau was adamant that the man was a "CCP informer" given the room's location and his response when challenged. He did not believe it was a coincidence "that a random Chinese tourist was outside the room at the exact right time ... attempting to access the event".

Royal Mail staff accept 10% pay deal

Royal Mail workers have voted overwhelmingly to accept a deal to end a long-running dispute over pay, jobs and conditions.

The Communication Workers Union (CWU) said that 75 per cent of those voting were in favour. The union said the vote signalled the end of the dispute, which resulted in more than 115,000 workers taking 18 days of strike action in the final quarter of last year.

The pay agreement included a 10 per cent salary increase and a one-off lump sum of £500. The union said: "This has been the most challenging period in both the history of the union and the company."

"Far from being an endorsement of the actions of Royal Mail Group, this result will be the start of the union reconnecting in every workplace."

Royal Mail said: "The agreement provides Royal Mail a platform for the next phase of stabilising the business whilst continuing to drive efficiencies." Acas, the conciliation service, said: "We are pleased to have helped the CWU and Royal Mail reach an agreed deal."

One senior BBC insider said that the mood inside New Broadcasting House was becoming increasingly "fraught".

"Everyone feels a bit blindsided. People are deeply frustrated that the BBC has become the story," he said. "Tim's comments today helped to clear up some of the questions but he still hasn't answered everything. People genuinely don't know what to believe."

A well-known presenter added that "management are exasperated", after the emergence of the second young person. "Previously it felt like they were caught between the presenter, warring family and Sun being unable to present compelling evidence but now things are less clear."

Jon Sopel, the ex-BBC News correspondent, said that the unnamed presenter was outraged about the claims. He said on The News Agents podcast: "It

is fair to say that the presenter at the heart of this is... extremely angry." The prime minister's spokeswoman said he would encourage people to contact the BBC if they had related complaints.

Mel Stride, the work and pensions secretary, urged MPs not to use parliamentary privilege to name the presenter, who is not being identified by the press for legal reasons, although his name is circulating widely on social media. Stride told Times Radio: "We really don't know many of the facts. And until we do, it would be ill advised."

On Monday the events took a dramatic turn when a lawyer acting on behalf of the first young person claimed that "nothing unlawful" had taken place following the complaint lodged with the BBC in May by their family. The Sun stood by its story. BBC reports, pages 4-5

See pop stars from the chaise longue

A company offers gigs from mystery acts in intimate settings, write **Constance Kampfner** and **Georgia Heneage**

Usually when Londoners are at a loose end on a weeknight they might arrange to meet at the pub. But one company is trying to push people to do something more adventurous and book tickets to a mystery gig in someone's home.

That's exactly what Georgia Heneage, a Times obituary writer, did a few months ago when she and a couple of friends wound up sitting on the floor of a small café in Islington (businesses can also lend their spaces), crammed in with a group of strangers to watch three artists they had never heard of perform.

"We bought cocktails and sat on some carpets; it's all very intimate and informal," she said. "There was a funny MC who made everyone feel at home."

All over the world, people are hunkering down to similar concerts put on by Sofar Sounds.

For about £20 a pop they are treated to a show, though they are sent the address only the day before. The identities of the performers are only revealed when they step on stage.

The first gigs were held in 2009, when Rafe Offer, an American expat and one of the company's three founders, invited a small group round to his friend's flat in north London. He had been feeling frustrated at the increasingly impersonal feel of watching live music on big stages, with people texting, filming and chatting all around him. More concerts followed before Sofar Sounds expanded to Paris, New York and Los Angeles. It has since organised thousands of events in 78 countries and expects to have staged 10,000 shows in 400 cities by the end of this year.

It has hosted all manner of artists, from those starting out to emerging stars such as Billie Eilish, who played a Sofar Sounds gig in Los Angeles in 2016, or those who are already famous — Ed Sheeran sang in a living room in Washington DC the following year. Rhian Teasdale of Wet Leg, the British band behind the hit single *Chaise Longue*, has also performed.

There were no such surprise appearances from megastars when Heneage attended her gig in March. She saw Theo, an Irish singer-songwriter; a spo-



Ed Sheeran and Rhian Teasdale are among the stars who have performed for Sofar Sounds, which also aims to promote up-and-coming artists

ken word artist called Mr Gee; and Pat Cunningham, an experimental guitarist and composer. Although she enjoyed the experience, Heneage was not sold on all the acts. "But the point is that's OK — you might see some things you like and some things you don't." The highlight was mingling with the artists after the gig. "We were able to chat to them about their back stories," she added.

According to Jim Lucchese, Sofar Sounds' chief executive since 2019, the perfect gig is one that achieves true symbiosis between listeners and performers. He recalls seeing the spoken word artist Hussain Manawer perform in London two years earlier, while Lucchese was in talks about joining the company. It was the anniversary of his mother's death and Manawer read a



Big stars thrive on small stage

The NPR Music offices in Washington are regularly transformed into a laid-back stage for its Tiny Desk Concerts. A small audience of no more than 100 staff, journalists and a select few members of the public gather to watch artists of all genres cycle through some of their favourite hits. The concert is then uploaded to YouTube for millions to view.

The idea was born in 2008 after Bob Boilen, the host, and the NPR journalist Stephen Thompson were complaining about not

being able to hear their favourite artists perform over the crowd at festivals. They joked that they should just have artists perform at their desks. Fifteen years later, the likes of Adele, Lizzo and Taylor Swift have all obliged.

Listeners can also tune in to live performances from their favourite DJs on Boiler Room TV. The online broadcaster came on to the scene in 2010 streaming established and emerging electronic music artists in intimate settings.

The English electronic

music duo Disclosure is one of the many acts that owe their success to Boiler Room. Their 2012 set helped to give them recognition, leading to work with prominent artists and the release of their critically acclaimed debut album Settle.

The German music performance platform Colors has also made a name for itself by sharing minimalist videos of artists filmed against a neutral-coloured background. Since its inception in 2016 it has become one of the biggest live music channels on YouTube.

poem about his own mother. "I don't think I've cried at a show ever," Lucchese said. "He saw me and then we had a conversation in the hallway two minutes after he finished performing. Those are things that can't happen at a 700-person capacity venue."

It is not an easy time for new artists. Algorithms on apps such as Spotify direct listeners towards their favourite tunes and there are fewer non-virtual ways for them to get noticed. According to the Music Venue Trust, 35 per cent of grassroots venues across the UK closed between 2007 and 2015. Covid and the cost of living crisis soon followed and the organisation recently warned that this year would "inevitably" be the worst for venue closures since its creation in 2014.

And yet demand for such performances, Lucchese said, has not gone away. He said: "I feel very comfortable that an artist sitting in a room performing their material, sometimes without a microphone, to an audience that feels deeply connected, is not going anywhere."

After tough day at work I turn to Beethoven, says Starmer

Henry Zeffman Associate Political Editor

Sir Keir Starmer has revealed that he listens to Beethoven to deal with the "strains" of leading the Labour Party.

In an interview with Classic FM, Starmer, who as a child played the flute, the piano and the violin, said classical music was "a great release" for him because it "just takes you away from whatever the other strains of the day are, to a different place".

Asked if there was a particular work he listened to after a difficult day at Westminster, Starmer highlighted the second movement of Beethoven's fifth piano concerto, the *Emperor Concerto*.



Sir Keir Starmer was a junior scholar at London's Guildhall School of Music

"There is that beautiful bit about a third of the way in where it's just the piano, totally on its own to start with, sort of rolling down the notes, and it's absolutely phenomenal," Starmer said.

The Labour leader said that as a flautist his favourite composer to play was Mozart "because it's just so profound... and if you play the flute you can get a bit stuck in baroque if you're not careful". But he said that as a classical music listener, Beethoven and Brahms were his favourite composers.

Starmer was a junior scholar at the Guildhall School of Music in London. He said: "I very quickly learnt that I'd got there because I'd practised hard

and I now met people who were totally gifted, incredibly gifted. I knew at that point that I wouldn't be able to pursue music because they were just in a different league to me, but it was incredible to see their creativity, the natural creativity that they had — from all different backgrounds. This talent is across all of us."

Starmer used the interview to highlight his pledge, made last week, for a review of the curriculum to encourage more arts education in schools because it has "dropped off in state schools". He said: "You're more likely to be doing music if you're in a private school than in a state school and I want to turn that

around. It will give children and young people not only great enjoyment but actually the skills that they will need not just for further learning but actually to take into the workplace."

He said he did not want to make music compulsory, however. "There's got to be an element of choice," he said. "I've got a 15-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl and compulsory doesn't really work as well as something that they want to do. When it comes to music and art, I think they'll learn more quickly if it's something they passionately want to do. At the moment I just don't think there are enough options for them in state schools."

News BBC scandal

Internal inquiry stalled after email and a failed phone call

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

The mother of the young person at the centre of the BBC scandal first detailed her "very serious" concerns to staff in a phone call that lasted 30 minutes.

The call took place on May 19, a day after family members visited a BBC building with fears that the presenter

had paid their child thousands of pounds for sexual images.

The BBC's audience services team considered the allegations sufficiently serious to pass them on to its corporate investigations unit, which kick-started an inquiry. The unit, headed by a former police detective, emailed the complainant that day to verify their

identity and seek further evidence to substantiate their claims but received no response. It was followed up two weeks later with a phone call that "did not connect", according to the BBC, which did not consider the complaint to be a criminal matter.

The inquiry was kept open but effectively parked with no further attempts

to make contact with the family until after The Sun's report last week that the star had paid £35,000 to their child, now aged 20, for explicit images, with the money used to fund the young person's addiction to crack cocaine.

Tim Davie, director-general, said that the BBC was reviewing its procedures surrounding the most serious complaints about its highest-profile stars. "Do we raise a red flag quickly enough once we receive complaints of this nature?" he said during an online press conference about the BBC's annual report.

The presenter was not spoken to by the investigations unit until The Sun approached the BBC with its allegations on Thursday.

Davie said that the BBC had a responsibility to staff not to bring complaints to their attention until after they had been verified. "We are balancing serious allegations, duty of care, privacy issues and legitimate public interest," he said. "We need to navigate that fairly, calmly and with due diligence."

As a result of its failure to reach the family, the investigations unit has faced criticism from some. Others were more circumspect due to the lack of clarity about the information it was provided with. Davie revealed it had worked on about 250 complaints over the past six months. One former executive who has



Tim Davie said the BBC needed to handle the matter calmly and fairly

worked closely with the unit said: "It's negligent. If they're investigators surely they could track down the mother and be more persistent. While they did not think anything criminal had taken place it was considered sufficiently serious to follow up."

A presenter added: "I can't believe that this sort of allegation is very common. It does look like they were complacent."

A journalist said: "If reporters sent one email and made one call to chase a story, and then left it, I'd be pretty unimpressed. It would look much better if the BBC was saying, 'We emailed four times and called on five separate occasions, and had no response.'"

Others defended the unit's efforts to verify the facts in challenging circumstances, saying: "Its work may not have been flawless but how robust it was is subjective. The case was left open while the team sifted through hundreds of other complaints to try to establish which are credible. They are making decisions based on what is in front of them and didn't have the evidence."

A second source familiar with the unit said: "The level of stalking, accusation and harassment problems they have to deal with is crackers."

In a statement the BBC said: "The events of recent days have shown how complex and challenging these kinds of cases can be and how vital it is that they are handled with the utmost diligence and care."

The BBC has paused its inquiry into the allegations while the police consider whether to launch a criminal investigation. The Met's request that the BBC halt its inquiry is an attempt to avoid any prejudicing of potential witnesses and contamination of potential evidence.



Leading BBC salaries

£1,354,999

Gary Lineker

£984,999

Zoe Ball

£449,999

Alan Shearer

£439,999

Huw Edwards

£404,999

Stephen Nolan

£399,999

Fiona Bruce; Greg James

£394,999

Ken Bruce; Lauren Laverne

£369,999

Sophie Raworth

£364,999

Steve Wright

£339,999

Amol Rajan; George Alagiah; Naga Munchetty;

£329,999

Mark Chapman

£319,999

Mishal Husain

£309,999

Laura Kuenssberg

£304,999

Scott Mills

£299,999

Victoria Derbyshire; Nicky Campbell

Figures show top end of £5,000 bands in which salaries are published

How presenter drama unfolded and answers to key questions

What was the nature of the star's relationship with a teenager?

The sexual messages are alleged to have started in 2020, when the youngster was 17. The family say the presenter never hid his identity and even sent pictures of his desk at work.

They said that the star paid their child for sexual pictures and saw bank statements to the value of £35,000, including one payment for £5,000. They said that the money funded their child's "spiralling" drug addiction.

The mother said: "We've always had a

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GETTY IMAGES

Zoe Ball, who hosts Radio 2's Breakfast Show, was the corporation's second-highest earner with a salary of up to £984,999, behind Gary Lineker, who remained the best-paid presenter with a salary of up to £1,354,999

close relationship. My child would be like, 'Oh, the presenter is giving me money later' or 'He's giving me £500' and I'm going out tonight because he's given me money'. I didn't like what I was being told but I didn't want my child to stop confiding in me.'

She added: "This year I heard him on the phone saying to my child, 'I told you not to f***ing ring me'."

The mother said she once saw a video call of the presenter sitting in his pants on the sofa waiting for her child to "perform for him".

How did they meet?

It is not known how they met although since the presenter's name has been reported on social media several people have posted alleged screengrabs of the same presenter previously contacting them out of the blue on Instagram.

The messages appear to follow a pattern involving the star starting the conversation by sending an emoji.

When did the mother first tell the BBC?

She first told the corporation about the allegations during a visit to one of the broadcaster's buildings on May 18. A security officer gave her a phone number, which she later said was incorrect, and the following day she contacted BBC audience services by phone to detail her concerns during a 29-minute conversation.

Yesterday the director-general, Tim Davie, said the allegations had been "very serious". The information was passed to its corporate investigations team and an assessment was made that the disclosure did not amount to criminality. Under the Criminal Justice Act 1988, the sharing of photos of those under 18 is illegal.

The BBC said two attempts to make contact with the family failed. On May 19 it sent an email to the complainant that did not receive a reply and on June 6 a phone call "did not connect". The

broadcaster did not seek to speak to the presenter until it was contacted by The Sun newspaper last Thursday, seven weeks after it was first notified.

The mother told the newspaper that since contacting the BBC the star had continued to engage with her youngster and last month had allegedly transferred £1,000 to them via PayPal.

She said she approached The Sun because she was frustrated that he remained on air. They were not paid by the newspaper.

The presenter allegedly rang last week, asking: "What have you done?" and it is claimed he also asked the youngster to ring their mother to get her to "stop the investigation" into him.

Has the family contacted the police at any point?

The family contacted its local police force in April but it concluded there was no criminality. The corporation

Lineker and Ball take top spots in BBC pay league

Alex Farber Media Correspondent
George Willoughby

The number of BBC stars to earn more than £150,000 has jumped by a fifth compared with last year, figures from the broadcaster show.

The total number of individuals in the corporation's top pay bracket rose to 220 from 179 last year and 156 five years ago. The total salaries of those earning £150,000 or more, whose income was funded directly by the licence fee, hit a six-year high of £23.4 million, surpassing the previous year's figure of £20.2 million.

Next year's top bracket will include only staff paid more than £178,000 because of a higher threshold as a result of inflation.

Gary Lineker remained the top-paid BBC star with an annual salary of up to £1.35 million followed by Zoe Ball, the Radio 2 Breakfast Show presenter, who earned up to £984,999. Neither star received a pay rise over the past 12 months. The BBC details salaries in £5,000 bands.

The biggest riser was Huw Edwards whose salary jumped about £25,000 to up to £439,999 as a result of the news specials that he has presented over the past 12 months, including the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

Leigh Tavaziva, BBC chief operating officer, said that the BBC had reduced its pay bill for its biggest 20 stars. "We saw significantly lower pay to our top talent earners during Covid driven by the volume of work that they were able to do during the pandemic period. And the cost of our top 20 highest-paid stars has gone down this year compared to last year."

Outside the top 20 earners, Lyse Doucet, the BBC's chief international correspondent, had the largest salary increase. Her pay went up some 36 per cent from up to £154,999 in 2021-22 to up to £209,999.

Mark Chapman, who hosts Match of the Day 2, had the second-largest increase at about 29 per cent and his



suspended the presenter on Sunday and the following day it held a virtual meeting with the Metropolitan Police's specialist crime command and the local police force.

The broadcaster said it took the decision after being told of fresh allegations "of a different nature" last Thursday – an apparent reference to The Sun's proposed story.

A Met police statement said: "[Detectives] are assessing the information discussed at the meeting and further inquiries are taking place to establish whether there is evidence of a criminal offence being committed."

"There is no investigation at this time."

Yesterday the BBC said it had been asked to stop its investigation into the presenter while the police make inquiries.

On Monday the youngster, through a legal firm, released a statement denying anything unlawful had happened.

income rose to up to £329,999. The Radio 2 DJ Scott Mills had the biggest salary cut, going from up to £404,999 to up to £304,999 marking about a 25 per cent drop. Last year's report showed Mills appeared on Radio 1's Pop 101 but he no longer features on the show.

There are four women in the top 10 this year with Lauren Laverne and Sophie Raworth joining Zoe Ball and Fiona Bruce.

Last year, only three women featured. But the BBC's gender pay gap was at its widest since 2018 at 7.3 per cent, up from 5.9 per cent for 2021-22. It said this was because of investment in technology and product areas, which are male dominated. The public broadcaster has come under fire for its pay gap, with eight equal pay cases open internally within the BBC.

Tim Davie, director-general, said that the BBC had made significant progress as it battled a rapidly moving market and limited funding.

"This work is not easy. The competition from big global players has never been tougher. The financial challenge has never been more acute," he said.

"The BBC experienced a real-terms fall in income of around 30 per cent over the decade from 2010, and continues to operate in an environment of extraordinary inflation and further licence fee freezes."

The number of people who opted against purchasing a licence fee over the period fell by 500,000 to 24.3 million, which Davie attributed to growing competition and the cost of living crisis.

"Just like every other media organisation we're not immune to those pressures," he said. "But licence fee figures continue to hold up extremely well."

"Nine out of ten homes across the UK continue to pay and the UK public watches more hours of BBC TV and iPlayer than any other provider as well — including more than Netflix, Disney+ and Amazon combined," Davie added.

In response, the parents said they stood by their story and questioned how their child, now 20, could afford a lawyer.

What contact has the presenter had with BBC bosses?

The presenter was not spoken to until last Thursday and yesterday Davie said he had not spoken to the presenter.

Are there other accusers?

Yesterday BBC News reported that a different person in their twenties was contacted by the presenter anonymously on a dating app and was pressured to meet up, but never did.

They said they hinted online they might name the star and were sent abusive, expletive-filled messages.

They said the threats made in the messages made them feel scared and frightened by the power they held.

The presenter did not respond to the latest allegations.

News

Frank addition to the Johnsons' Odyssey

Boris and Carrie Johnson have named their third child Frank Alfred Odysseus (Laurence Sleator writes).

Frank was born last Wednesday, his mother announced on social media. He is the younger brother to Wilfred Lawrie Nicholas, three, and one-year-old Romy Iris Charlotte.

Mrs Johnson, 35, told her Instagram followers: "A week of Frankie." She thanked staff at University College London Hospitals and asked her followers if they could "guess which name my husband chose". He has cited Odysseus, the main

character in Homer's epic *The Odyssey*, as his classical hero.

Romy was named after Mrs Johnson's aunt, Iris was taken from the Greek meaning rainbow and Charlotte for the former prime minister's late mother, who died in 2021. Wilfred's names were a tribute to the couple's grandfathers and two doctors who treated Mr Johnson, 59, in intensive care for the coronavirus.

Frank is believed to be his eighth child.

They include four with the barrister Marina Wheeler, whom he divorced in 2020, and a child in 2009 with Helen Macintyre, an art adviser.

TMS, page 13



Frank with Wilfred, his big brother. Carrie Johnson announced the birth of her third child with the former prime minister via her Instagram account



May: Migration bill undoes slavery law

Henry Zeffman
Associate Political Editor

Theresa May warned that the government's migration policies would "consign more people to slavery" as MPs rejected a string of changes made by the House of Lords.

The former prime minister said Rishi Sunak's legislation to tackle migrant crossings of the Channel "ties the hands of the police and undoes the good work of the Modern Slavery Act". She vowed to "persist in disagreeing with the government" unless it exempts people trafficked into the UK from new measures to detain and rapidly deport migrants.

As the Commons began a new phase of "ping pong" with the Lords on amendments to the Illegal Migration Bill, May urged MPs to support an amendment that the upper chamber had backed to protect victims of modern slavery.

She told the Commons: "I know that ministers have said this bill will enable more perpetrators to be stopped, but on modern slavery I genuinely believe it will do the opposite. It will enable more slave drivers to operate and make money out of human misery, it will consign more people to slavery. No doubt about it, I think if Lords Amendment 56 is overthrown that will be the impact."

May added: "This bill has been marketed as a 'stop the boats' bill. We all want to stop the boats. Nobody wants to see people risking their lives in small boats across the Channel. But this bill is not just written to stop the boats. It covers all illegal migration, and its unwritten subtext is the 'stop certain victims' claims of modern slavery' bill. Not stop false claims of modern slavery. But stop all claims, full stop. And that is where I depart from the government."

"When I was home secretary, we were very clear that modern slavery should not be seen as part of the immigration issue, but what the government has now done is taking these two together and that's one of the difficulties."

Offering up a scenario of a young woman trapped "in slavery", May said the bill would give her "no support". She added: "The government's response would be 'We don't care that you've been in slavery in the UK, we don't care

Quentin Letts

Verbal camouflage for Rwanda candidates

Political Sketch



Ping-pong is an unsatisfactory term for what is currently happening to the Illegal Migration Bill. It suggests something fleet of foot and playful; mind you, it does involve top-spin and a certain amount of balls.

This is the stop-the-boats bill that might (pooh-bahs of the Supreme Court permitting) allow the government finally to catapult a few migrants to Rwanda. It roared through the Commons weeks ago but met with less sunny reviews in the upper house. Their lordships shook their sticks and clutched their dewlaps and pulled the clanking lavatory chain. The Archbishop of

Canterbury himself stood on the barricades, Marx in a surplice. The government was subjected to no fewer than 20 defeats. The amended bill that returned to the Commons this week was as patched as that old coat the King sometimes wears. It had had more inserts than Wayne Rooney's scalp. Trigger's broom and the Red Baron's Fokker retained more of their original fabric.

And so the Commons yesterday patiently undid the alterations. The bill will now be sent back to the Lords, which can decide how many of its amendments it reinserts and how close to the parliamentary recess it runs the game of chicken. We're talking here about the prime minister's top political pledge. Voters watch. Voters wonder why they bother, or at least why they bother to go to church.

For the day's debate the Home Office fielded Robert Jenrick, immigration

minister. Suella Braverman is the secretary of state but government business managers possibly thought her parliamentary manner a little Mediterranean. Suella could start a fight in a Quaker meeting house. Jenrick does not ignite Yvette Cooper to quite the same degree. Lady May (C, Maidenhead) feels less of an urge to throttle Jenrick than she does with Braverman. If you use Whitehall euphemisms you are less likely to agitate trouble. Jenrick talked of the "detention of vulnerable cohorts" rather than "locking up pregnant women". He said "the detained estate", not "all those dodgy Albanians we stuck behind bars". Here was a minister who understood the importance of fish knives, doilies and an After-Eight with your bill.

That damp specimen Sir Bob Neill (C, Bromley & Chislehurst) waxed on about the drafting of statutory guidance and the difference between interpretative and incorporative cases. He was in an anguish, as so often, about whether or not he could "support the minister in his contentions". Jenrick was patient enough not to roll his eyes.

He played the game of pretending to take the little chap's concerns seriously. Neill blinked and brushed the lint off his tie with plump satisfaction.

A couple of former children's ministers paraded their consciences. Jenrick smoothly assured them of the great distinction they had shown in office. John McDonnell (Lab, Hayes & Harlington) growled. Jenrick praised his deep knowledge about migration matters. May and another former Conservative leader, Sir Iain Duncan Smith, fretted about modern slavery. Jenrick murmured, with beautiful manners,



that he was "grateful for the wise counsel and advice" the two grandees had given him. They loved that. May still indicated that she would not support the government but Jenrick had managed not to make her erupt. With the volcano in Iceland going pop, we had quite enough of that for one afternoon.

The house was ill attended. Dame Diana Johnson (Lab, Kingston upon Hull North) thought the bill had been "rushed through". It was not obvious that more time would have changed anyone's mind. At the end of the Hundred Years' War there were probably people saying "we don't want to be hasty here".

Hilary Benn (Lab, Leeds Central) wanted migrants with young children to be given picture books. Labour's spokesman, Stephen Kinnock, was upset that a Mickey Mouse mural welcoming migrants to Dover had been removed. A Tory accused Kinnock of being a windbag. We were back to the hereditary principle.

Theresa May said the bill would let slave drivers "make money out of human misery"

that you've been in a living hell, we don't care that you have been the victim of crime. We do care that you came here illegally even though you probably didn't know it, so we're going to detain you and send you home even if it's into the arms of the very people who trafficked you here in the first place or we want to send you to Rwanda."

May was not the only Conservative critic of the bill. Tim Loughton, a former minister, said that although the government had made some conces-

sions, "assurances that we were promised have not materialised or, if they have, I am afraid nobody understands them."

David Simmonds, another Conservative, said that he would be "following" May in trying to preserve the modern slavery laws.

Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister, said that the Lords had followed "its proper role as a revising chamber" but that some of the changes it made were "little short of wrecking

amendments". Jenrick told MPs: "The 'stop the boats' bill is designed to ensure the UK can be an even greater force for good in the world by using our finite resources on those who truly need it."

He added: "It's vital that this bill reaches the statute book quickly and in a form that will stop the boats. It is riddled with exceptions and get-out clauses" in its current form that had been introduced by the Lords, the minister said.

Jenrick said that if the bill became

law in that form, "it will simply not work", adding: "We have to send a clear message back [to peers] that it is now their turn to think again and to respect the will of the elected house."

Yvette Cooper, the shadow home secretary, described the bill as "a con which will make things easier for criminal gangs and make the asylum backlog even worse." She said that the government had "given up on both common decency and common sense".

The age of migration, letters, page 22

Mother calls the shots for Danish star

Holger Rune counts on a big advantage in today's quarter-final, report **David Brown** and **Emma Yeomans**

Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark was watching from Holger Rune's box on the No 1 Court at Wimbledon but the player's eyes were fixed only on his mother.

While some commentators try to portray Rune, 20, as the "bad boy" heir of the Australian star Nick Kyrgios, he is a mummy's boy driven by the woman who holds sway over his career. Aneke Rune has put her successful business career on hold as her son faces Carlos Alcaraz, his childhood friend, on Centre Court today in the first Wimbledon men's quarter-final to feature players who are both under 21.

Rune is a month younger than his opponent, with film star looks that have led to comparisons with Matt Damon. But he has won only a third of Alcaraz's £13 million prize money. The Danish star was in frequent contact with his mother during his victory on Monday over Grigor Dimitrov, with the pair constantly shouting and gesticulating to each other between points.

"My mom was super pumped," he said. "She's a huge influence. She really helps to kind of keep me in the perfect state of mind. Obviously she knows me better than anybody. I want her for every tournament. I want her there because I really feel the support. Also, if I feel like I have something that I want to get off my heart or something, I can always come to her and talk."

The temperamental side of their relationship was demonstrated during Rune's third-round match against the Spanish player Alejandro Davidovich Fokina. Rune shouted at his mother and his coach, Lars Christensen, "you're so f***ing smart".

His 52-year-old mother left the court, telling the Jyllands-Posten newspaper: "We could clearly feel that he was channelling too much energy towards us."

Rune said he relaxed by playing cards with his mother and celebrated his victory over Fokina by eating two burgers from Five Guys. The player, who is constantly travelling, has decor-



ated his apartment in Copenhagen in the style of a hotel room. He said: "Sometimes, when you stay in a place for a long time, you get mentally exhausted."

His mother travels the world with him having stepped back from running the water cooler company she founded. Her husband, Anders Rune, who works in shipping, remains in Denmark, while their daughter, Alma Rune, an Instagram model, is

taking on a bigger role in the water cooler business.

Rune's mother said: "I've gone into this just as much as Holger. I've never doubted that it could be done, and that's probably one of the big reasons why Holger still thinks it's cool that I travel with him. Holger hasn't worked equally well all the time through all his teenage years, and the times when he went a little off track, I've also been very honest and said that the course you're taking right now isn't really progressing."

From the age of four, Rune sat for hours studying tennis players at the family home in Skovshoved. He started playing at the age of six and at nine

helped Denmark to win the European championship for under-12 teams.

"The reason I started travelling with Holger was actually that I thought he was too small to travel alone," said his mother, who as his manager is responsible for travel, logistics and contracts.

She admits making high demands of her son. "If he's upset about losing a match, I tell him he can't expect to win if he makes this and that mistake. I've always been used to being bluntly honest, even if it can be really annoying to hear the truth."

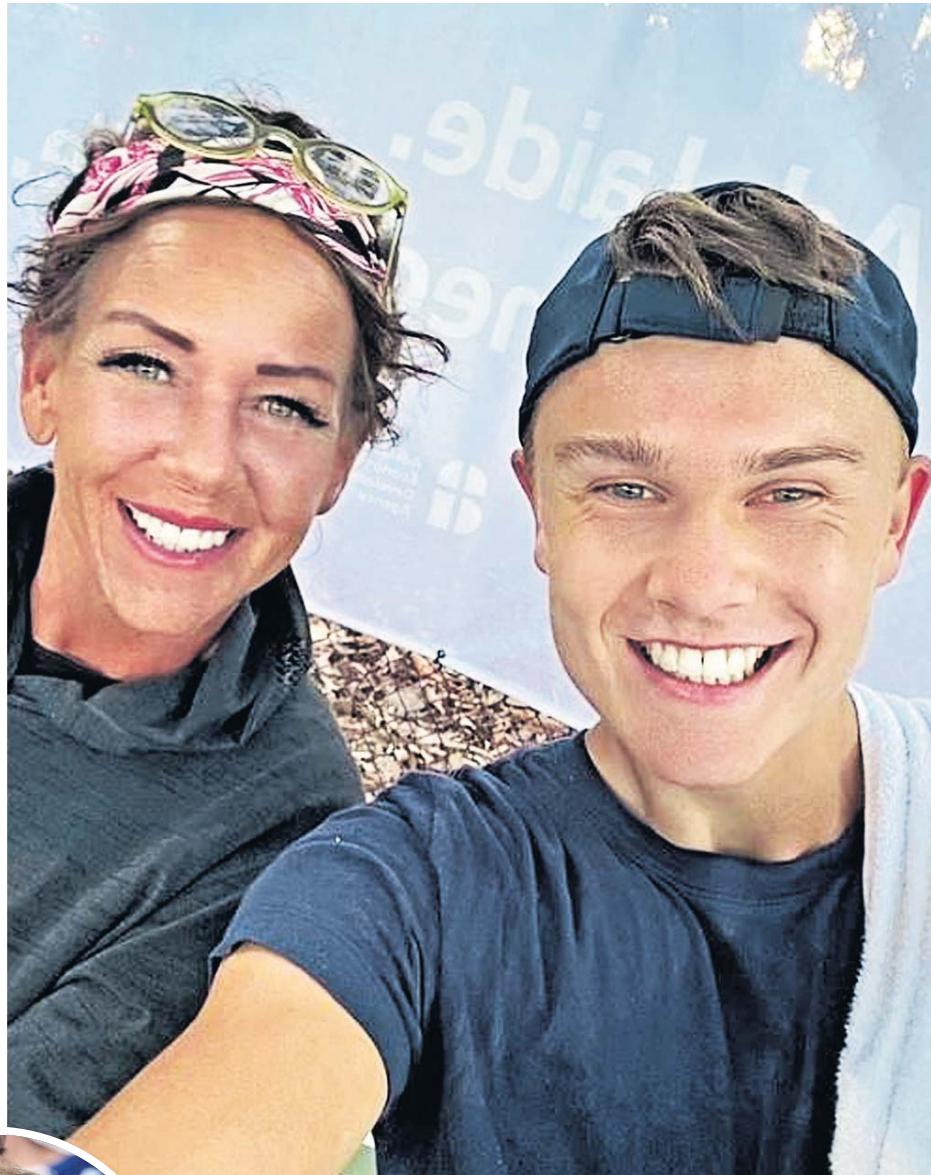
Alcaraz, the No 1 seed who won the US Open last year, said of his opponent: "We shared a lot of great moments. We

played together since we were 12 years old."

Chris Eubanks, 27, an American who works as a commentator for the Tennis Channel to support his playing career, has also reached the quarter-finals despite saying he hates playing on grass. The son of a Baptist minister also worked as a double for Arthur Ashe, the 1975 singles champion, in the documentary *Citizen Ashe*. He faces Daniil Medvedev, the third seed, on No 1 Court.

"Those words about hating grass will never come out of my mouth for the rest of my career," Eubanks said. "Right now, it's my best friend."

Reports, pages 60-63



Aneke Rune travels the world with Holger as his manager. The Dane has played tennis with Carlos Alcaraz, his opponent today, since they were 12. Chris Eubanks, below, has reached the quarter-finals despite having disliked playing on grass and, like Cliff Richard, left, is now enjoying the tournament



Reigning over weather, it's John QuackEnroe

David Brown, Emma Yeomans

With rain expected today, the forecasters at Wimbledon are prepared with millions of pounds of technical equipment — and a plastic tray featuring a toy duck called John QuackEnroe.

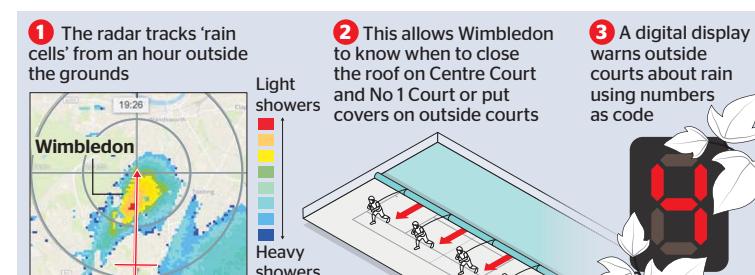
Hidden beneath Centre Court's stands is a weather station packed with high-tech equipment operated by experts from the Met Office and France's national meteorological service. Their forecasts allow play to continue in one end of the grounds while at the other end the court covers are being readied.

Abby Smith, a Met Office meteorologist based at Wimbledon, said: "You can

really see the value of what you are doing because you are giving some advice and then seeing them cover the court or clearing them and maximising the play."

The Met Office is responsible for forecasts up to an hour ahead. As clouds get closer, a Météo-France high-resolution radar determines their density, direction and speed. Amid the equipment is a black plastic tray filled with water placed on a roof. A yellow plastic duck, named after the three-times champion, is perched on the corner.

An infrared camera focused on the surface of the water records the frequency and size of rain drops. The in-



formation results in a map showing when rain will hit a court, its intensity and duration. This allows Gerry Armstrong, the Wimbledon referee, to order the roofs or covers to be unrolled and then removed as quickly as possible.

Warnings are communicated to "court crews" via a signalling system outside Centre Court. "1" alerts teams to be on standby. "2" means the umpire has discretion to stop play. "3" means covers applied at the umpire's discre-



The rain tray with its plastic duck

tion, with "4" requiring covers immediately. If prolonged rain is forecast "5" means clip and inflate the covers. As the clouds move on, "6" means deflate the covers and "7" indicates that it is safe to remove them. Finally, "8" means "dress the courts" for the resumption of play.

Smith said the Met Office did a forecast for each court an hour before play: "We lead the [weather] story from an hour out to the rest of the week."

Paul Abeillé of Météo-France said his radar monitored clouds that produce rain up to 60km (37 miles) away. Standard weather radars produce an image accurate to 1km every five minutes, but his equipment is accurate to 100m and runs every 60 seconds. "So we know exactly where are the rain cells, and then knowing the evolution of the air mass and speed of the rain cells, we can have the information if there will be rain and on which court it will start." The duck and tray, however, is "the most important instrument".

News Politics

Britain seeks to reassure Ukraine over joining Nato

Oliver Moody Vilnius
George Grylls
 Defence Correspondent, Vilnius

Britain and Germany have sought to reassure Ukraine that it will join Nato "as quickly as possible" after the war despite a non-committal statement on its membership prospects released by the alliance.

President Zelensky accused his western backers of disrespect with the statement, issued at its summit in Lithuania, in which Nato stopped short of giving Kyiv an invitation to enter, committing itself only to do so "when allies agree and conditions are met". These conditions were not spelt out, in a diplomatic victory for the United States, Germany and other states wary of overpromising.

But some of the language appeared designed to keep hopes alive, including praise for Ukraine's progress on domestic reforms and its military interoperability with Nato forces. The US, Britain, France and Germany are ready to provide interim security guarantees that would include state-of-the-art weapons systems, intelligence and training.

"As Ukraine makes strategic progress in their counteroffensive and the degradation of Russian forces begins to infect Putin's front line, we are stepping up our arrangements to protect Ukraine for the long term," Rishi Sunak, the prime minister, said.

Nato also promised Ukraine that, like Finland and Sweden, it would not need to undergo a membership action plan, a lengthy formal process of accession.

Zelensky at first reacted with raw disappointment on his way to the summit,

suggesting that the uncertainty would encourage the Putin regime to draw out the war. "It's unprecedented and absurd when [a] time frame is not set, neither for the invitation nor for Ukraine's membership, while at the same time vague wording about 'conditions' is added," he said. "It seems there is no readiness ... to invite Ukraine to Nato nor to make it a member."

Andrij Melnyk, Kyiv's deputy foreign minister, expected a "steel-reinforced concrete commitment that Ukraine will join Nato as soon as possible and not when hell freezes over". He said Kyiv had been "given the runaround" by Nato since 2008, when it was first told it would become a member.

Hours later Ben Wallace, the defence secretary, and his German counterpart, Boris Pistorius, tried to assuage Ukraine's frustration. Wallace said he agreed with the US position that adopting Ukraine while the conflict was live risked "importing war into the alliance" but also extended an olive branch to Kyiv by lauding its armed forces and its efforts to stamp out corruption.

"Ukraine is not far off membership," he said. "Obviously we're an alliance of 32 [once Sweden joins]. Everyone has to move at the same pace but Britain's point of view is Ukraine belongs in Nato. We have to wait until this conflict is over but ... whenever this conflict finishes we should be prepared as quickly as possible to bring Ukraine closer."

Pistorius said: "We should talk about what is going on directly after the war to support Ukraine for reconstruction, for rebuilding the nation ... and, of course, membership in Nato is part of

that security circle." At the same time Britain, Germany and other members announced further packages of arms. Britain said it would supply shells tipped with depleted uranium for the 14 Challenger 2 battle tanks it has donated, in addition to more than 70 additional combat and logistics vehicles.

Germany announced a €700 million military aid package that included two Patriot missile defence systems, 25 Leopard 1A5 main battle tanks, 40 Marder infantry fighting vehicles, 20,000 artillery shells and reconnaissance and anti-drone equipment.

On arriving in Vilnius Zelensky gave a more upbeat speech before his first meeting in a new Nato-Ukrainian council format where the two sides will notionally engage on an equal footing.

"Today I embarked on a trip here with faith in decisions, with faith in partners, with faith in a strong Nato: in a Nato that does not hesitate, does not waste time and does not look back at any aggressor," he said. "And I would like this faith to become confidence: confidence in the decisions that we deserve — all of us deserve — and every warrior, every citizen, every mother, every child expects. And is that too much to expect?"

President Biden missed last night's dinner for Nato leaders. His aides said he was "preparing for a big speech". His absence led to talk on social media about his stamina but earlier he had joked with President Erdogan about being in office until 2028, when he will turn 86, saying: "I look forward to meeting with you in the next five years."

Blow to Putin, leading article, page 23

Alliance's 'historic day' as Turkey drops bar to Sweden

Oliver Moody

Nato's secretary-general hailed an "historic day" for the alliance after Turkey dropped its opposition to Sweden's membership.

Speaking at the opening of the Nato summit in Lithuania, Jens Stoltenberg said bringing Sweden on board would make it significantly easier to deter or repel any Russian aggression against the Baltic states. Sweden's entry into Nato, held up for the best part of a year by Turkey and Hungary, is now likely to be swift, coming weeks after the accession of Finland, its closest ally.

Stoltenberg said President Erdogan of Turkey had promised to put it to a parliamentary vote "as soon as possible", while Hungary's foreign minister said that Sweden has his country's full support and ratification of its Nato entry was now "only a technical issue".

"I feel very glad, I can assure you," said Pal Jonson, the Swedish defence minister. "We stand ready as soon as possible to join Nato as a fully fledged member of the alliance."

James Cleverly, the British foreign secretary, said he was confident that Sweden would soon become Nato's 32nd member. Russia's foreign ministry,



meanwhile, noted that the development had occurred on the "national day of military glory" marking the anniversary of the Peter the Great's victory over a Swedish army near the Ukrainian city of Poltava in 1709.

There have been suggestions that Turkey had ulterior motives for its change of mind, most notably its desire to import a consignment of F-16 combat jets and other armaments from the United States and the need to mend relations with Europe to encourage western investment into the country. **Opportunistic Erdogan, Roger Boyes, page 20**

Army to sit out bolstering Baltic forces

Oliver Moody

Estonia is to signal that it does not want Britain to bolster its military presence in the country despite substantial recent promises of extra troops from Germany and Canada to the other Baltic states, The Times understands.

Usually the UK has about 900 soldiers stationed at the Tapa military base in central Estonia at the head of a multinational Nato battlegroup.

Last month Germany said it would move its 4,000-strong Panzergrenadier mechanised infantry brigade to Lithuania and on Monday Canada announced plans to double its deployment in Latvia to up to 2,200 troops.

However, James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, and his Estonian opposite number are expected to issue a joint statement today signalling that their plans remain unchanged.

Estonian officials are understood to want to reassure the UK that they are not pushing for any additional forces, in part because the base at Tapa has only limited capacity and in part because Britain has set out plans to deploy a rapid reaction force in an emergency.



President Zelensky addresses crowds in Vilnius with his wife, Olena; Rishi Sunak with Gitanas Nausėda, the Lithuanian president, and with Giorgia Meloni, prime minister of Italy, before a dinner attended by the Nato leaders



Sunak hints that pay rises would mean more cuts

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Government departments will have to make cuts to fund higher pay rises for public sector workers, Rishi Sunak has suggested, as he warned that “excess government borrowing” would stoke inflation.

The prime minister is due to make a decision on whether to accept the recommendations of the independent pay review bodies this week.

They have privately recommended to ministers that teachers should receive a 6.5 per cent pay rise for 2023-24, and police officers, prison officers and junior doctors should all get 6 per cent or more. The recommendation for armed forces personnel is between 5 and 6 per cent.

Sunak did not rule out rises but suggested that they would have to be funded by finding billions of pounds’ worth of savings elsewhere in Whitehall budgets. “We want to be fair, we want to do things that are affordable for the taxpayer and we need to be responsible,” he said.

“The chancellor is right to highlight the importance of excess government borrowing on inflation. The government has to act in a way that is responsible given the economic context that we face and in particular, the rise in borrowing costs that most countries are currently experiencing.”

In evidence to the pay review bodies, ministers have warned that the original funding for this year’s pay rise budgeted in the spending review has been spent on last year’s “above-affordability pay rises”. Further pay rises of more than 3 per cent would require “trade-offs against other priorities, including funding for frontline public services”.

Sunak and Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, are under pressure from cabinet colleagues to agree to the pay review bodies’ recommendations. They are understood to be intent on additional funding rather than paring back budgets. But Sunak said that the government’s “number one priority” had to be reducing inflation while being “responsible with government borrowing”.

“That is absolutely the overriding economic priority, and that takes precedence over everything else,” he said. “So, given the context we face, we are going to make sure that we bring inflation down, and we don’t do anything to make the situation worse or last longer. And that is our overall approach.”

In a message to Tory MPs before what are likely to be three by-election defeats next week Sunak also appealed to his party to remain united and stick to the course he set out with his five pledges at the start of the year.

He said that “mid-term by-elections for incumbent governments” were “always difficult” and the circumstances for the by-elections were “obviously challenging”. But he was hopeful that the economic situation would improve. “Of course I know things are tough. I can see that and I talk to people about it every week,” he said.

“I always knew it was going to take some time to improve things. But that doesn’t mean the course is the wrong one just because it takes time and is difficult.”

Sunak added that while he wanted to reduce taxes, that too would be inflationary and would have to wait.

Pay rises at record pace, page 32

Truss’s guru wants lower tax

Rishi Sunak needs to give public sector workers a pay rise and stop worrying about inflation, according to Liz Truss’s economic guru (Chris Smyth writes). Professor Patrick Minford, who was attacked by Sunak last year for suggesting that Truss’s plans could send interest rates as high as 7 per cent, says that the prime minister’s plans have been a “disaster” and that Sunak risks both choking the economy and “wrecking” the public sector.

As rates on two-year mortgage deals reached 6.66 per cent, passing the peak seen after Truss’s mini-budget, Minford said Sunak’s government had “got it completely wrong”. During last year’s leadership campaign, Minford was one of the few economists cited by Truss in support of her plan to cut taxes. He acknowledged that interest rates would rise, saying they would reach 3.7 per cent, leading to claims by Sunak’s campaign that Truss would put up mortgage costs by £585. The base rate was 1.25 per cent a year ago and is now 5 per cent.

Minford was surprised that rates were “as high”, suggesting he always thought 4 per cent was more likely. Sunak was “completely misconceived” to try to use government spending restraint to control inflation. The Bank of England had “doled out some pretty strong medicine. The job of fiscal policy is to keep the economy on an even keel and not to wreck the public sector. At the moment our fiscal policy is risking the economy by choking growth through excessively high taxes”.

Minford reiterated his call for tax cuts, which could be combined with higher public sector pay. “It’s not a good idea to use public sector wage settlement to control inflation. It’s going against market forces, it loses workers to other sectors.”

With Sunak ready to overrule recommendations that public sector workers get rises of 6 per cent or more, Minford warned: “Unless he wants to kill the public sector he’s got to let market forces work.”

Sunak insists that borrowing more for public sector pay rises would fuel inflation, but Minford dismissed this. “Inflation is on the way down,” he said. “Monetary policy has done enough and they should be patient and let the medicine work through.”

Allies of Sunak pointed out he had predicted that Truss’s unfunded tax cuts would lead to market turmoil. Minford dismissed the risk of a repeat, however. “There’s a lot of nonsense talked about public sector borrowing,” he said. “In the long run the state has to pay its way. But do that [too soon] and you shut off growth which makes longer-term solvency worse.”

A separate commission set up by Truss has warned that income tax will have to rise by up to 4p to fund public services if Britain cannot boost growth. It says the average Briton has £10,000 less to spend a year than American counterparts, with the gap set to widen.

UK firms ‘lead way in profit increases’

Alex Ralph
Chief Business Correspondent

Companies in the UK have increased their profits by more than competitors in other leading economies, according to research that will intensify concerns that “greedflation” is tightening the cost of living squeeze.

Average British profit margins rose by almost a quarter between the end of 2019 and early this year, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reported, with only businesses in Germany raising margins by more among the G7 economies.

Profits rose faster than labour costs, the OECD said in its employment outlook, and at a rate that gave the UK “more headroom to absorb any future wage-inflation pressures by reducing unit profits”. Stefano Scarpetta, a director at the OECD, said that it was “somewhat unusual that in a period of slowdown in economic activity we see profit picking up”.

The analysis risks stoking concerns about so-called greedflation, where companies take advantage of rising inflation to unfairly increase prices to boost profits. Businesses such as supermarkets have faced criticism and come



Rising profits may offer headroom to absorb wage inflation, the OECD said

under scrutiny, but have denied the claims and point to small margins.

The OECD said that as economies reopened from the pandemic, pent-up demand and large government recovery plans helped profits to pick up quickly “as supply-chain bottlenecks slowed down the expansion of supply”.

It said: “In a context with strong consumer demand and rapidly evolving inflation driven by external factors, firms might have had more room to increase prices simultaneously as they expected competitors to behave in the same way, while consumers might have been more prone to accept price increases given the inflationary context.”

It added that some of the price increases might have also been in anticipation of future increases in input and labour costs. The OECD said that in the future there was “some room for profits to absorb further partial adjustments in wages without generating significant price pressures or resulting in a fall in labour demand”.

Andrew Bailey, governor of the Bank of England, and Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, called on Monday for wage restraint, cautioning that high pay settlements were compromising the battle against stubbornly high inflation.

Bailey said that the “unexpected resilience” of Britain’s economy had exacerbated wage and demand pressures, contributing to “sticky” high inflation.

The OECD’s analysis of profit margins measured profits per unit of real output, or unit profits.

Post-pandemic pupils lag behind

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor
George Willoughby

Primary school children in England are still doing worse than before the pandemic in maths and writing while reading has stalled, figures show.

Fewer than three fifths of pupils are reaching the expected standard in all of the three Rs. This year's figure — 59 per cent — is down from 65 per cent before lockdown and is considerably lower than the government's target of 90 per cent working at this level by 2030, which was described by head teachers as a "pipe dream".

The marking threshold for reading was dropped after a very difficult paper that brought complaints from parents and teachers.

Standard assessment tests (Sats), taken in England at the end of primary school, showed a slight improvement on last year but results remained far behind 2019. Tests were not taken in 2020 and 2021 because of Covid disruption.

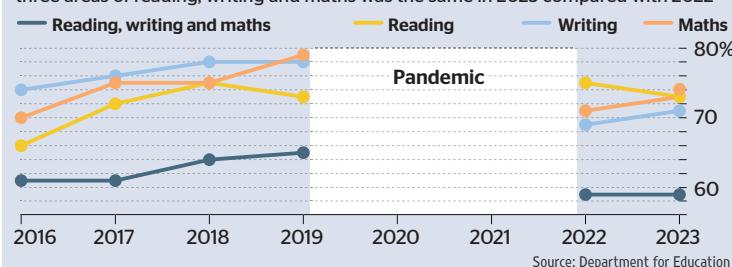
Of the three subjects, only reading improved between 2019 and last year, with the level of children meeting the expected level rising from 73 per cent to 75 per cent. This year it fell back to 73 per cent.

For writing, the proportion of pupils hitting the expected level fell from 78 per in 2019 to 69 per cent last year, increasing slightly to 71 per cent this year. Maths fell from 79 per cent in 2019 to 71 per cent last year, rising to 73 per cent this year.

Parents and teachers complained that this year's Sats reading paper was

Stall in attainment

The percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard at the end of key stage 2 in all three areas of reading, writing and maths was the same in 2023 compared with 2022



too difficult, with reports that some staff struggled to understand the questions and some children were reduced to tears. The mark at which children were deemed to have passed was reduced from 29 out of 50 last year to 24 out of 50 this year.

Primary school heads reported problems for a second consecutive year yesterday in accessing their pupils' Sats results through a government website.

The Department for Education said that this year's cohort of Year 6 pupils experienced disruption to their learning during the pandemic, particularly at the end of Year 3 and in Year 4.

In other subjects, 80 per cent met the expected standard in science, up from 79 per cent last year, while 72 per cent met the expected standard in grammar, punctuation and spelling, unchanged from last year.

Tiffnie Harris, primary specialist at the Association of School and College

Leaders, said: "It is extremely difficult to raise standards when schools are struggling to put a qualified teacher in front of every class. Primary education is very poorly funded to the point where small schools are sometimes close to being financially unsustainable."

"The government's target of 90 per cent of children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths is a pipe dream in these circumstances."

Paul Whiteman, general secretary at the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Our members raised significant concerns about the difficulty of the reading paper this year and the impact it had on children. The threshold for the expected standard is five marks lower than last year, and the lowest since 2017 — this is significant and a clear recognition that this was a more challenging test for children."

"It invalidates what school leaders were saying and it is a real shame that the

department was not willing to acknowledge this earlier. It is time to change the system of statutory assessment, which is of little benefit for teachers or children yet has a range of negative consequences. These tests are simply a snapshot of what a child can do when faced with a particular set of questions on a single day in May and they are given far too much significance."

Nick Gibb, the schools minister, said that it was "encouraging to see attainment levels improving in some key subjects" and pointed to the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study, which in May ranked children in England as better readers than their counterparts in the United States and the Continent and in fourth place on an international league table.

"Our national tutoring programme has been crucial in helping those pupils most in need of support and our reforms — including the focus on phonics — are helping to ensure more children leave primary school with a secure grasp of reading and writing," Gibbs said.

A spokeswoman for the campaign group More Than a Score said: "Pupils have spent too much time cramming for government tests which will never provide an accurate picture of all that they can do, or the overall performance of their school. For months, instead of enjoying a broad, rich curriculum, they focused on English and maths, only to then face a reading paper which was condemned by heads, teachers and parents for its inappropriateness and difficulty."

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1 Obscene, indecent (4)

— — —

2 Mean, nasty (6)

— — — — —

3 Grand, opulent (6)

— — — — —

4 Dig up (7)

— — — — —

5 Reducing (9)

A	A	D	D	E	E	E	E
G	H	H	I	I	I	K	L
L	L	N	N	N	N	N	R
S	S	S	T	U	U	V	W

Solutions see T2 MindGames p15
Cryptic clues T2 MindGames p14

Franklin will is valid

A handwritten will signed with a smiley face in 2014 by Aretha Franklin and found years later under a cushion is valid, a jury in Michigan said. The soul star died of pancreatic cancer aged 76 in 2018 without a formal will for her multimillion-dollar estate. Franklin left two handwritten papers and her four sons had been fighting over which should take precedence. It is a victory for Kecalf Franklin and Edward Franklin, who argued that it should override a 2010 document.



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Lake that lays bare humanity's impact

The bottom of Crawford Lake in Ontario, Canada, "is completely isolated from the rest of the planet" and experts say analysis of its sediment provides an accurate record of humanity's effects on the Earth

Minerals beneath the surface chart changes from industrialisation to nuclear weapons, Adam Vaughan reports

Geologists have spent the past five years scouring the globe for signs of humanity's impact on the planet, from sardine fish scales in a Japanese bay to fingerprints of climate change in the stalagmites of an Italian cave. In April, they voted overwhelmingly for a Canadian lake as providing the best evidence to mark the start of a new epoch called the Anthropocene.

The Anthropocene working group, made up of 34 geologists, has worked since 2009 to establish the Anthropocene. But to transform it from an idea into a formally adopted epoch, they needed a single site to submit for consideration by the geological authorities.

Epochs need to be defined by one location with enough geological data, known as a "golden spike" or "global boundary stratotype section and point" (GSSP). For example, the end of the

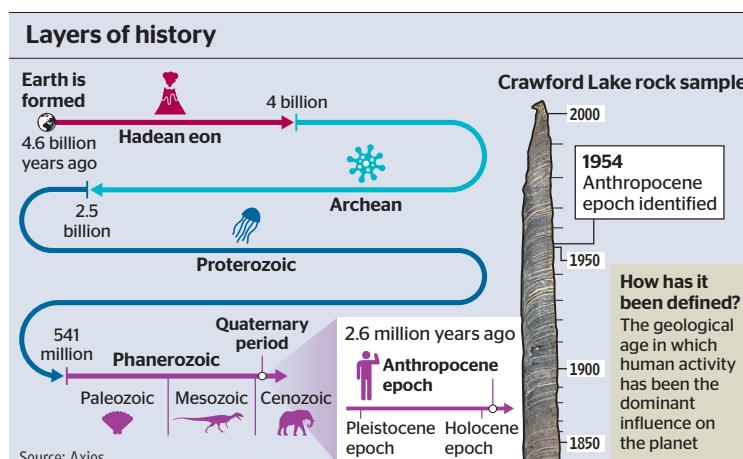


Cretaceous period 66 million years ago is defined by a golden spike in a cliff face in Tunisia, which holds the signature of iridium from an asteroid that triggered a sudden mass extinction.

Crawford Lake in Ontario is special, according to Professor Francine McCarthy, of Brock University, because the "bottom is completely isolated from the rest of the planet". Calcium and carbonate fall slowly to the bottom, where they form layers of calcite that act as a year-to-year record of human impact — including traces of plutonium released by nuclear weapons testing in the 1950s. Each layer is a different thickness and colour.

The sediment at the bottom also contains evidence of farming and logging dating back centuries, and particulate matter from fossil fuel power plants in the 1950s. Importantly, the way sediment accumulates at Crawford means it should take 30,000 years for the lake to fill in, meaning that it will provide an "Earth archive" far into the future.

While the location for an official birthplace of the Anthropocene has been chosen, the geologists have not yet picked a specific year for when it started. Dr Simon Turner of University College London, secretary of the work-



Behind the story

The Earth's 4.5 billion year history is divided into geological epochs, which usually span millions of years. Scientists have announced evidence that the world has probably entered a new one, called the Anthropocene. The unofficial

epoch is used to describe how humans have changed the Earth so much that their impact, from climate change to wildlife losses, will be visible in geological records, such as sediment and fossils, for millennia. The concept has not been officially recognised by geological authorities. But it has

gained traction as a popular conception of how people have changed our world and thousands of scientific papers have been published on the subject. Paul Crutzen, who won the Nobel prize for chemistry, is often credited with popularising the concept after he used the term in an essay in 2000.

ing group, said the early 1950s were the most likely period. Those years are considered by some experts as the time of a "great acceleration", when industrialisation became more intensive and human activities spread across the whole planet.

Professor Jan Zalasiewicz, emeritus professor of palaeobiology at the University of Leicester, said: "The Anthropocene working group have, over the past few years, amassed much evidence to show beyond reasonable doubt that the Anthropocene is real, with massive post-1950 human impacts pushing the Earth out of its generally stable Holocene state towards a hotter, polluted, more biologically degraded state that is still evolving rapidly."

The vote for Crawford Lake does not mean the Anthropocene has arrived yet. Evidence supporting the site will be submitted to experts before proceeding to the ultimate arbiter of declaring epochs and other geological units of time, the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS). A decision by the body is expected next year.

Zalasiewicz cautioned that "there is no guarantee that it will be accepted".

McCarthy said the authority that manages the lake is bracing for a surge in visitors should the ICS declare a new epoch. If the lake does mark the start of the Anthropocene, a brass plaque signalling the epoch will be kept in a cryogenic unit at the University of Ottawa rather than in the lake's depths — to avoid people stealing it as a memento as has happened with other golden spikes.

Boy, 15, charged after maths teacher stabbed in school corridor

Will Humphries
Southwest Correspondent

A 15-year-old boy has been charged with attempted wounding with intent after a maths teacher was stabbed at a school in Gloucestershire.

The boy, who cannot be named, was also charged with possession of a blade on school premises and was being kept in police custody before appearing at Cheltenham magistrates' court today.

The teacher, James Sansom, 27, was attacked at Tewkesbury Academy on Monday after he heard a knock at his classroom door and went into the hallway to investigate.

A sibling of one pupil at the school said: "People in the class said someone knocked on the door and Mr Sansom has gone out to see who it [was]. They heard screaming and shouting. After a couple of minutes he didn't return."

Sansom, who teaches maths and was

beginning his lesson at the time, was taken to hospital with one stab wound and was discharged that day.

He said in a statement that he was "recovering well". He is due to move to a new job after the summer term and said: "It would mean a lot to me to have the opportunity to say goodbye [at the school] before I move on."

Gloucestershire police said that the motivation for the attack was unclear. There was no evidence to suggest that it

was linked to terrorism. The school was locked down for more than two hours. Pupils and teachers barricaded themselves into classrooms while armed police searched the school. Two other schools near by were told to shut their doors.

The suspect was arrested two hours later in the village of Stoke Orchard, about four miles away.

The school opened yesterday after "careful assessment and consultation

with police". Uniformed police officers were manning every entrance and exit.

A school spokesman said: "We feel it is important for our students to be able to return to a sense of normality in their school, where we will be providing a range of additional mental and emotional support for students and staff. Police will retain a presence at the school for the coming days to provide reassurance."

News

Wreck's bounty of blades and coins

Jack Blackburn History Correspondent

It is the stuff of a children's pirate story: a sunken ship, silver coins and 100 exquisite sabres — and all of them are emerging from a shipwreck off the Kent coast.

The Rooswijk was a Dutch East India Company ship sailing for Jakarta in 1740 when it ran aground on the Goodwin Sands off Deal and sank. The wreck was found at the start of this century and divers started to explore the site six years ago. Now treasures are being uncovered.

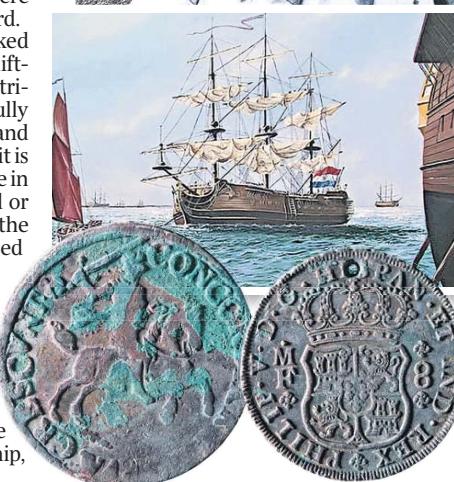
A video by Historic England shows the shipwreck 25m (85ft) beneath the waves as well as some of the artefacts that have been recovered. As the Rooswijk was laden for a voyage at the height of European imperial trade, there were thousands of treasures aboard.

The most intriguing find lurked within one of five chests that were lifted from the sea. It contained 100 intricately etched sabre blades, beautifully marked with images of the sun and moon. The blades had no hilts and it is not known whether the handles are in another chest yet to be uncovered or that the intention was to complete the swords at a later date. Their proposed use is also unclear.

Martijn Manders, from the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, said: "It takes a lot of effort to excavate a shipwreck. The conservation has proven to be just as challenging. Through mini excavations in the lab we know so much more about the ship,



Secrets of the Rooswijk, which ran aground off Kent in 1740, are being revealed



the people on board and their trade." Only one chest has been opened so far as the process takes years. Concretion and corrosion layers were stripped before the wood was analysed. When the chest was opened a similar anti-corrosive process was repeated 100 times for each sword.

"For one chest, we know there are 100 in there and, though we don't know exactly how many are in the other chests, it would be reasonable to assume they would contain the same amount," Angela Middleton, the senior archaeological conservator at Historic

England, said. About 2,500 artefacts have been found in this round of retrievals, including 1,846 silver coins. The discovery is being placed at the forefront of this year's Festival of Archaeology, which aims to get children engaged with history.

The piratical air of the Rooswijk discovery is of interest for children, even if that is not where the truth of the wreck lies. "It's like an adventure story," Middleton said.

The Festival of Archaeology, organised by the Council for British Archaeology, will run from July 15 to 30.

Priest resigns after claim he wrestled teens

Kaya Burgess
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The priest who founded the Soul Survivor church and its Christian youth festivals has resigned four months after allegations of inappropriate behaviour became public.

The Rev Mike Pilavachi founded the church in Watford in the early 1990s and set up its festivals, which drew tens of thousands of young people to hear Christian music. In March, he was asked to step back from the church and in May he was suspended during an investigation by the Church of England into allegations that he had given messages to teenage interns and engaged them in wrestling matches.

The Times reported that concerns about Pilavachi's conduct had been raised with senior staff and trustees at Soul Survivor as long ago as 2004. He posted an update on his social media accounts yesterday, saying: "I have today resigned as associate pastor of Soul Survivor Watford. The church needs to heal and I have realised that my continued presence will hinder that."

The Soul Survivor church said that it was "committed to a robust and wide-ranging review of the culture, leadership and governance of Soul Survivor Watford with external, independent support". The church's national safeguarding team said it would "continue to listen to and offer support to those who come forward" with reports.

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Peer's foibles took the biscuit

Another hereditary peers' by-election is required after the death of the 4th Lord Palmer, crumb of the famous Huntley & Palmers biscuit family. An eccentric fellow who said he was incredibly rich on paper but complained about tipping, Palmer owned a 110-room mansion in Berwickshire with the world's only silver-plated staircase. In 2000, he appealed for volunteers to polish it in return for wine and sandwiches after his head buffer retired. Not that he was ungenerous: one of his last contributions to Parliament was to praise the kindness of the staff on the east coast main line and say they all deserved "a serious clap on the back". Somehow this offer didn't prevent another RMT strike.

Palmer also practised personal thrift. In 2021 he secured a debate on food waste to which his only contribution was to moan about sell-by dates. "I once ate a biscuit that was 20 years old," he said. "It was perfectly edible."

POPE'S BAKER ON BREADLINE
After 93 years of supplying popes with their daily bread, the Vatican's favourite bakery has closed. In 1930



Angelo Arrigoni's grandfather began to deliver bread to Pius XI in a chest for which only he and the paranoid Pope had keys. The family have baked for Holy Fathers ever since. Benedict XVI lived in the Vatican for years as a cardinal and used to visit their shop in person. When he became Pope, Arrigoni called the Vatican to take his order. "He already has a baker he likes," a nun replied. "Yes, it's me," he told her. He blames Covid and energy prices for his decision to close. It's become too hard to make a crust.

DRINK LIKE A FISH, MPS TOLD
Before a night of heavy voting, the government chief whip was anxious that his troops didn't pass out from walking through the lobby. The Guido Fawkes website reported that Simon Hart emailed the troops yesterday to advise them that since it was a warm evening they should drink lots of water, with the unsaid

implication that other liquids would be frowned on. Normally Tories complain about the nanny state. Next Hart will be telling them not to go out without an umbrella in case it rains and to take a hanky rather than use their sleeves.

Another Johnson has entered the world with the birth of Frank Alfred Odysseus, Boris giving his son the name of a famous liar who left his wife at home while he had a string of affairs. The initials may also remind him of his days in Whitehall. James Chalmers, regius professor of law at Glasgow University, remarked that FAO Johnson could be "the first child to be named after a memo".

MCKELLEN HOLDS THE LEAD
Sir Ian McKellen is playing a dogwalker in *Frank and Percy* at the Theatre Royal, Windsor, a role he has wanted since his teens. When his widowed father sought approval to get remarried, the 13-year-old McKellen said he would give his blessing so long as they also got a dog. "The dog arrived the same day Gladys did," said McKellen, above. He's owned several since but knows the deal about their affections. "A dog's love, passionate as it is, is not all-embracing," he told *Whats On Stage*. "It's all to do with food."

PATRICK KIDD

Founder of grieving charity dies aged 43

Debbie White

One of Britain's most successful fintech entrepreneurs has died aged 43 from a rare form of bone cancer.

Nick Hungerford, a former stockbroker who co-founded Nutmeg, a digital wealth management firm, in 2011, had recently set up a charity to support children bereaved due to terminal illness. He named Elizabeth's Smile as a tribute to his daughter Elizabeth, aged two, whom he described as "a true daddy's girl".

The charity announced on its website that he had died on July 6 and in a tribute added: "Nick leaves behind a legacy of compassionate innovation."

Hungerford had spoken last month about dying from Ewing sarcoma, which had left him in severe pain.

He had first noticed something was wrong in December 2019, when he felt a pain in his right thigh. An x-ray showed a five-inch tumour and he was diagnosed with the cancer, which can also affect tissue around the bones.

Hungerford had an operation to remove his femur and replace it with titanium, as well as chemotherapy, but the cancer returned at the end of 2021. He told *The Daily Telegraph* that treatment including radiotherapy had given him an extra 18 months to spend more time with his wife Nancy and their daughter.

Hungerford got the idea for the charity in January last year when he and

Nancy were offered alternative therapies and family counselling to help, but were told that there was nothing available for children. He said: "My daughter is not going to be condemned to a lifetime of grief, worry or disadvantage because of my illness. She is always smiling—which cheers everyone up—and I am determined that smile won't stop after I have gone. I had to do something—starting now and continuing beyond the grave—that would prevent these vulnerable children from suffering any more than is necessary."

His charity, which provides practical resources to children in the UK and US, paid tribute to a "distinguished entrepreneur and compassionate visionary".

Born in Bristol, Hungerford studied at Exeter and Stanford universities and began his career as a wealth manager at Barclays and Brewin Dolphin.



Nick Hungerford is survived by his wife Nancy and Elizabeth, his daughter

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Lorry deaths smuggler gets 12 years in jail

Debbie White

A people smuggler has been jailed for more than 12 years for killing 39 Vietnamese adults and children whose bodies were found in a lorry trailer.

Marius Mihai Draghici, 50, fled the UK and was arrested by police in his native Romania in August before being extradited. Last month Draghici, who charged migrants up to £13,000 for a "VIP" crossing to the UK, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to 39 charges of manslaughter.

Bill Emlyn Jones KC, for the prosecution, told the court that the victims' last hours "must have entailed unimaginable suffering and anguish". Some tried to batter their way out of the sealed, airtight container with a pole as it was transported by ferry from Zeebrugge in Belgium to Purfleet in Essex.

Mr Justice Garnham jailed Draghici for 12 years and seven months.

The victims' bodies were found in Grays after the temperature in the trailer rose to 38.5 C. Many left messages for loved ones on their mobile phones. One text message by a young mother read: "Cannot breathe any more."

Four other gang members were jailed in 2021 for between 13 and 27 years for the manslaughter of the migrants.

Apology for blacklisted weapons expert

Jack Malvern

A government laboratory has offered a "sincere apology" to a chemical weapons expert who it blacklisted from an event after finding tweets critical of the government.

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, commonly known as Porton Down, disinvited Dan Kaszeta from a conference in May on the basis that it had "identified material that criticises government officials and policy".

Paul Hollinshead, chief executive of Porton Down, has admitted that its decision was based on an analysis of Kaszeta's Twitter activity and was improper. "I am writing to offer my sincere apologies for DSTL's error in rescind-

ing your invitation to the Chemical Weapons Demilitarisation conference in May this year," Hollinshead wrote.

"This decision was incorrectly taken following informal checks of your social media posts, and due to a misapplication of Cabinet Office guidance."

The Cabinet Office issued guidance in 2021 telling staff to "avoid any invitations being issued to individuals and/or organisations that have provided adverse commentary on government policy, political decisions, approaches or individuals in government that could undermine our position on impartiality and create reputational damage". This guidance appears to have been taken up by various departments and agencies, each applying their own interpretation.

Hollinshead wrote to Kaszeta on July 7 stating that the agency should not have rescinded an invitation on the basis that a speaker had criticised government policy and was undertaking a review of its processes.

Kaszeta, writing today in The Times, said that being banned was "bad for my career" and bad for democracy. He said that the apology was a vindication for him but did not go far enough. "Apologies to other victims of blacklisting would be even better... Secret blacklists are indefensible in a modern democracy. The fact that a policy was applied to me in error does not address the issue that they exist."

Edward Lucas, a Liberal Democrat candidate at the next election and a

Times columnist who first wrote about the blacklisting, said that he knew of up to 12 people who had been disinvited from government events as a result of the policies.

"Some of them are extremely wary to speak out because they think it would be career suicide," Lucas said. "[The number of people] shows it is not a one-off — not one civil servant making a bad decision. It's a pattern. We want to make this guidance public rather than secret."

He and Kaszeta are applying for judicial review to force government departments to publish their vetting policies and determine whether they breach human rights law (freedom of expression), the equality act (discrimination

on grounds of political belief) and data protection regulations.

Lucas added that the government might have avoided the process if it had apologised to Kaszeta immediately.

Kaszeta said that he felt that the government was trying to "fob me off" with an apology. He said that the rescinding of his invitation had been absurd because he spoke at the same conference two years earlier with no negative ramifications.

Asked whether his career had suffered, he said: "I don't think so, but on the other hand it's been incredibly draining. I get the feeling that maybe I won't be invited in the future."

No place for blacklisting in democracy, Dan Kaszeta, page 20

Serving more than the tennis

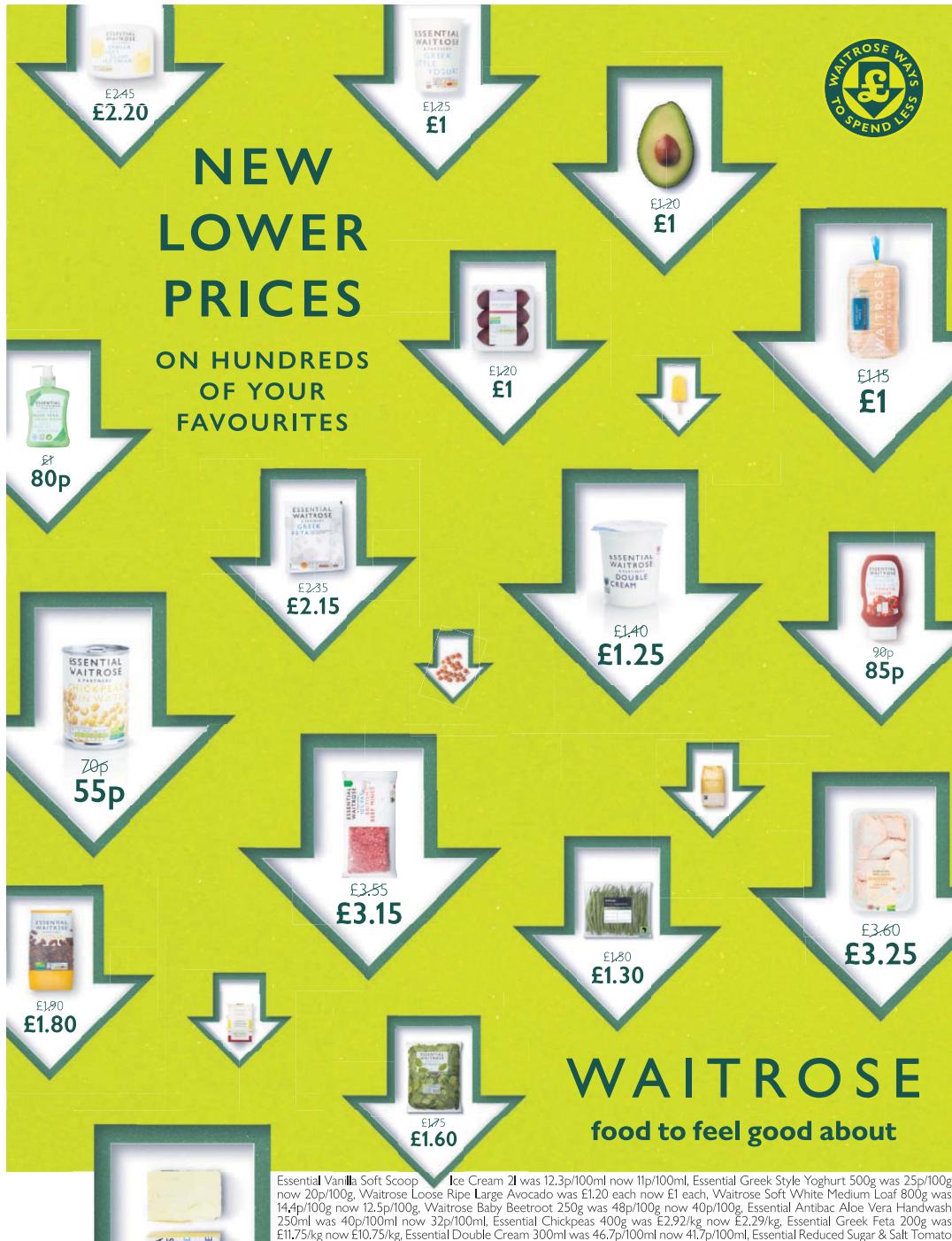
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Why faba beans could be the future of bread

We've already been eating beans on toast, what about being toast? That's become the norm, thanks to a team of scientists pledging to make bread better for both people and the planet – by baking it with flour milled from faba beans.

"Pulses, particularly faba beans, are nutrient-rich and have a low environmental impact, but many people find it difficult to include them in their diet," explains professor Julie Lovegrove, project lead at the University

of Reading. "The £2m, three-year, publicly-funded Raising the Pulse project will see researchers and chefs work with the general public, policymakers, farmers and the food industry – including Waitrose, which will partner on cropping at its Leckford Estate farm in Hampshire, product development and consumer testing. "We've already performed

experiments and found that flour can replace imported soy flour, used in white bread, and some of the wheat flour, which is low in nutrients," continues Julie. "We cannot only grow the faba beans in the UK, but also produce and test the faba bean-rich bread."

As well as benefiting the human diet, being notably high in protein, fibre and iron, faba – or broad – beans enrich the soil they grow in by fixing nitrogen, and also thrive in

the British climate, concludes Joanne Lunn, Waitrose senior sustainability and ethics manager for health: "It's really looking at the big questions we're trying to answer at a societal level at the moment: how can we turn our food system into something which produces sustainable, healthy food for all?"

These sorts of initiatives look at ways in which we can start to shift the current status quo and create something better for people and the planet."

News



On a mission Zoe Saldana and Nicole Kidman promote the first season of Special Ops: Lioness, a drama based on the US military to be broadcast on Paramount+

Mortgage rate rises 'near tipping point'

**George Nixon Money Reporter
Ben Martin Banking Editor**

Britain's biggest building society has warned that rising mortgage rates are near a "tipping point" beyond which switching to an interest-only deal will not soften the blow for households.

Henry Jordan, an executive at Nationwide, told MPs that converting to an interest-only loan, which is one of the options that lenders are offering to help customers deal with rising borrowing costs, was unlikely to help households once mortgage rates reached between 6.25 per cent and 6.5 per cent.

According to Moneyfacts, the data provider, rates on two-year deals are at 6.66 per cent, the highest since August 2008. Yesterday they passed the peak of 6.65 per cent reached on October 20, after Kwasi Kwarteng's mini-budget.

Jordan said that customers of Nationwide, Britain's second-largest mortgage lender, were seeing an increase in monthly payments of about £235 as they moved from deals of about 2.25 per cent to those of 5.5 per cent.

"If they convert to interest-only they could move to a lower payment," he said. "Even though their rate will increase, moving to interest-only would more than offset that increase. That remains true until you get to somewhere between 6.25 and 6.5 per cent, so that might be a kind of tipping point at which options like interest-only won't be sufficient to offset the increase in payments that customers will see."

The mortgage broker L&C said that the average of the cheapest two-year fixed deals at Britain's ten largest mortgage lenders, including Nationwide, was now 6.04 per cent.

Jordan was speaking to MPs along-

side representatives from Lloyds, Santander, Skipton Building Society and Paragon Bank about how the banks were supporting homeowners dealing with the highest interest rates in 15 years.

Over the past two months average monthly mortgage repayments have risen by £170 a month, or £2,040 a year, on a typical £200,000 25-year loan. They have now exceeded the peak reached after Kwarteng's £45 billion package of tax cuts last September, which sent government and household borrowing costs soaring. The budget measures were quickly overturned and mortgage rates fell afterwards, but they have since risen as fears about inflation have grown.

Simon Gammon, from Knight Frank Finance, a mortgage broker, said that he expected mortgage rates to peak at about 7 per cent.

Lenders including Barclays, NatWest and Yorkshire Building Society are due to increase their rates again this week. The rapid pace of rises has been attributed to worse-than-expected inflation data, which put the annual rate of consumer price inflation at 8.7 per cent for two consecutive months. Data released yesterday by the Office for National Statistics, which found that average pay rose by a record 7.3 per cent in the three months to May, has led to expectations the Bank of England will increase interest rates further next month.

The executives told MPs that although mortgage arrears had remained low, they expected financial pressures on households to rise. "What I expect to see over the next six months is that we will see more customers with financial stress," Charlotte Harrison, of Skipton, said.

1,700 families in biggest review yet of NHS maternity failings

Kat Lay Health Editor

About 1,700 families are set to be involved in what is expected to be the largest review into NHS maternity services after a scandal that caused "life-changing harm" to mothers and babies.

Bereaved relatives wept as the senior midwife heading a inquiry into maternity care failings at the Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust promised to "do all I can" to make sure no one else suffers the same harm.

Donna Ockenden told a public meeting on Monday that behind the figures were mothers and babies who suffered harm, "often avoidable, life-changing harm made worse by having to fight to be heard".

She said: "I know there are local families struggling to provide 24-hour care for babies who have been left severely brain damaged. I have heard from a mother whose baby is so poorly she asks herself regularly, 'Would it have been better if my baby had passed away?' I know there are families who never brought their babies home, or babies who did come home but died shortly afterwards. I know there are little boys and girls out there in Nottinghamshire today without their mummy ... I know this is true because I have met those families."

The review will focus on maternity units at the Queen's Medical Centre and the City Hospital, both run by Nottingham University Hospitals (NUH).

The trust has accepted its maternity services were unsafe and paid almost £90 million in compensation for claims relating to deaths, stillbirths and babies left brain damaged.

The chief constable of Nottinghamshire police attended the meeting and has pledged to review cases.

The trust's chief executive, Anthony May, who came into office last September, said: "Some of the stories I have heard will undoubtedly stay with me for a very long time but it pales into insignificance to the pain and suffering these families have endured ... there is much that we must do now to improve our services."

While the trust had planned to publicly apologise to the families involved, the families told them it would be more meaningful if it came after the review's findings were published. May said the trust was "fully committed" to saying sorry at an appropriate time.

Case study

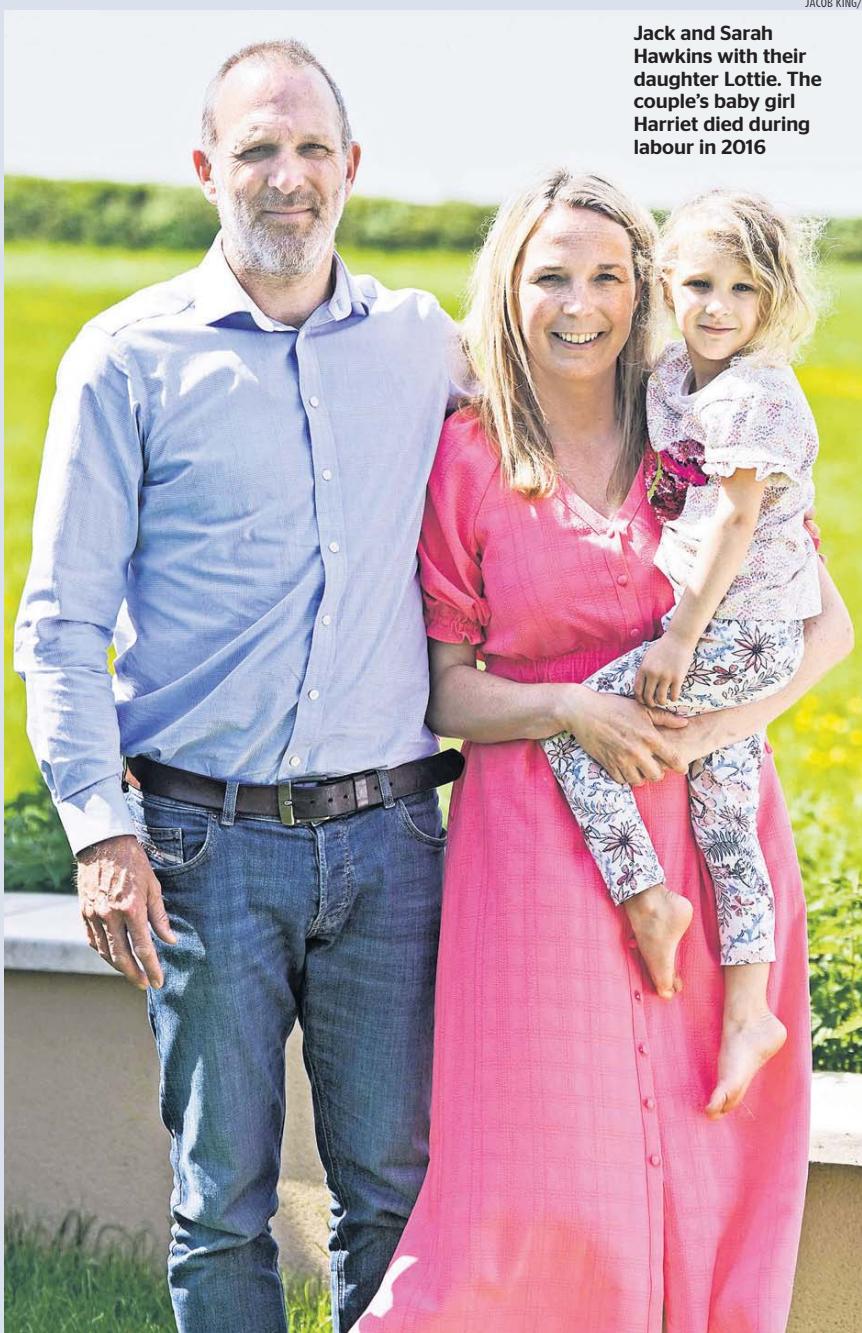
Jack and Sarah Hawkins worked for Nottingham University Hospitals Trust until their daughter, Harriet, died during labour in April 2016. Midwives delayed recognising that Mrs Hawkins was in labour, telling her not to attend the maternity ward for six days. By the time she was admitted, Harriet had died.

The trust paid £2.8 million in compensation in an out-of-court settlement.

Mr Hawkins welcomed Donna Ockenden's involvement. "I am feeling optimistic. In some ways, there already has been action," he said. "They cannot step back from this now. Donna is great, she is powerful, she is honest, she is fair. I'm hoping at the end [of the review] we will be able to say Harriet didn't die in vain."

His wife, who had another daughter, Lottie, in 2019, said that Ockenden's appointment "was a massive relief. We thought we might finally get a proper review with someone independent."

She added: "When the review ends, our daughter will still be dead, but we might not have to fight so much. We haven't been able to grieve properly."



JACOB KING/PA

Jack and Sarah Hawkins with their daughter Lottie. The couple's baby girl Harriet died during labour in 2016

Prue Leith: Child obesity is a job for nanny state

T TIMES Health Commission

Kat Lay
Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

The nanny state must step in and insist on cooking lessons at school to beat obesity, Prue Leith has said.

Leith, a judge on *The Great British Bake Off*, said tackling poor diets and the problems that followed required "a really massive effort" and politicians should not shy away from that.

"We don't mind the fact that the nanny state insists we go to school to learn maths," she said. "So the nanny state who has to pay enormous sums of money to rectify the problem of obesity has every right to want the nation to learn to like good food and to learn about nutrition."

At a hearing of The Times Health Commission, a year-long inquiry into health and social care, Leith said: "The poorest person knows vegetables are better for them than chocolate. So, yes, education is important. But the main thing is physical. Getting to like it."

Leith has been deeply involved in food education, chairing the School Food Trust, a quango responsible for improving food in schools, between 2007 and 2010. She founded a charity called Focus on Food, now part of the Soil Association, to promote cooking in the curriculum, and in 2018 helped to launch Chefs in Schools, recruiting chefs for school kitchens.

She had hesitated to join *The Great British Bake Off* because it promoted cake. But she added: "Generally cooks eat much more healthily than non-cooks."

Studies have shown that factory-produced bread, crisps and biscuits are linked to type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and other ailments.

• Family doctors should check for deficiency of vitamin B12 when older people or vegans come in complaining of tiredness, poor eyesight or mobility problems, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has recommended. It said that 46,000 people could benefit from its first guidelines for diagnosing and managing such deficiency, with older people one of the main groups at risk.

Rylance provides a revelatory show about a paradoxical maverick

Theatre Dominic Maxwell

Dr Semmelweis

Harold Pinter Theatre, SW1

★★★★★

If I told you this was a play about remembering to wash your hands, you might not race to snap up a seat. And yet, in this biographical play about a 19th-century medical pioneer in antiseptic procedures, Mark Rylance has cooked up one of the most singular achievements of his remarkable career.

Antiseptic procedures? Not a sexy premise, you might think, even with its Covid-era resonance. Yet this is a revelatory spin on the lone-man-takes-on-the-complacent-establishment plot that powers, say,



Mark Rylance excels as the charming, brilliant, raging and ruthless pioneer

An Enemy of the People or *Jaws*. Rylance first devised it before the pandemic, with a team including the playwright Stephen Brown, the director Tom Morris and the choreographer Antonia Franceschi. It opened at the Bristol Old Vic last year to reviews that went from middling to mighty. Here in London it feels mighty, a show that uses every facet of theatricality, sometimes all at once. A show that, granted, at first appears complex to the point of convoluted.

On Ti Green's womb-dark set, the Hungarian doctor Ignaz Semmelweis is visited at home by old friends from the Vienna General Hospital.

Will he return to his old work reforming the hospital's obstetrics unit to save mothers' and babies' lives? No? Why not?

Cue this outwardly diffident yet inwardly fiery maverick — classic Rylance! — guiding his pregnant wife,

Maria (Amanda Wilkin), through events. Semmelweis examined why the midwives' maternity ward had many fewer deaths than the doctors'. Only slowly did he and his colleagues (Ewan Black, Felix Hayes, Jude Owusu ... I wish there were room to name all of this outstanding ensemble of 18, plus musicians) get to the bottom of it.

Once you get your bearings, it moves like a thriller. An eccentric thriller, yet the layers of stagecraft and empathy in this beautifully bold production make *Dr Semmelweis* zing with acuity. A chorus of dancers interweaves with the action, as does the string quartet playing Adrian Sutton's chamber music. The point is made, but not laboured, that no man is an island. Not even a maverick hero.

There is humour as well as physical theatre, music, anger, sadness,

emotional nuance. Semmelweis questions the system, but matron (Pauline McLynn), the conservative head doctor (Alan Williams) and his stunned wife alike question him back. And all have a point.

At 63 Rylance is old for the role — Semmelweis died in 1865, aged 47 — and yet who better than this actor to embody (seemingly effortlessly) the paradoxes of someone of such charm, clumsiness, humanity, brilliance, ruthlessness, innocence and rage?

His crusading rides roughshod over feelings as well as conventions. Rylance motors a long but gripping show that discards his character slightly too swiftly as he loses his grip.

So why have you probably not heard of Ignaz Semmelweis?

You'll find out in a show that reveals the power and the pitfalls of men on a mission. To October 7, drsemmelweistheplay.com

HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE HUNGRY WHERE YOU LIVE?

Almost one in five children in the UK worry about not having enough food at home.¹

With a gift of £90, you could provide the equivalent of 360 meals to children going hungry this summer.

Attending local schools, playing in the parks you walk through, or perhaps living on your street – there are likely to be children who do not have enough to eat.

Over the school holidays, the extra costs for childcare and food push many families to breaking point. With food prices continuing to skyrocket, families are crumbling.

Meanwhile, 3 million tonnes of good-to-eat, surplus food needlessly goes to waste annually in the UK.

If you want to change this, there is something you can do today to build a better, more just society.

With a gift of £90 to FareShare, you could provide the equivalent of three nutritious meals a day to four children for a month – that's 360 meals.

Here's how your gift will help:

FareShare receives good quality, surplus food from supermarkets, farms and manufacturers. Your generosity means we can redistribute the food to our network of 8,500 local charities and community groups across the UK. This includes youth groups and community centres, where families can receive meals along with vital support, like activity camps for children over the summer.

The nourishment your generosity will provide goes far beyond food. It can also support families and strengthen communities.

Give today and your £90 gift will be match funded,* making it worth £180.

How your £90 could feed four children who are hungry this summer



Surplus food is received from suppliers.

With a gift of £90 to FareShare, you could provide the equivalent of three healthy meals a day to four children for a month.



FareShare redistributes the food to local charities helping people in need.



Children can get healthy meals at day centres, youth groups and community cafés.

Yes, I want to give a gift which could help to feed four children in the UK over the summer holidays.

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Please accept my gift of:

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 £90 for 360 meals
 My chosen amount of £ _____

I enclose a Cheque/Postal Order/Voucher made payable to FareShare

OR please debit my: Visa Mastercard Amex

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Start Date: / Expiry Date: /

Signature Date

giftaid it

Boost your gift by 25% - for free!
 Yes, I would like FareShare to claim Gift Aid on this donation, as well as on all the donations I have made in the past 4 years and on all future gifts of money that I donate. FareShare will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 I give. By ticking this box I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations across all charities it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

*When you give a gift today, it will be doubled at no cost to you. Long-standing FareShare supporters, Mike and Helen Brown, are kindly matching all gifts up to a combined value of £100,000. So your gift will be making twice the impact, doubling the number of meals redistributed.

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FareShare is a registered charity in England and Wales (1100051) and Scotland (SC003558).

¹<https://foodfoundation.org.uk/publication/child-food-insecurity-doubles-fueling-calls-urgent-expansion-free-school-meals>



To give online please visit fareshare.org.uk/holidayhunger or scan the QR Code.

West Country is suffering from Tory neglect

Alice Thomson

Page 21



Comment

What will require me to change: a thread

From social media habits to how we vote, even riots in France, our choices reflect those around us reinforcing a new norm

Daniel Finkelstein



@DANNYTHEFINK

Should I stop using Twitter and use Threads instead? Last week we saw the launch of Meta's new social media app, linked to Instagram. And there was a rush to set up Threads accounts. I set one up too. After all, perhaps everyone else would and would start using their new accounts. But then again perhaps they wouldn't.

My dilemma wouldn't be that interesting even to me, let alone anyone else. Except for this: while I was thinking about the decision I realised it might help shed light on numerous other things I care about a great deal. Will the riots in France be repeated here? Can the Conservative Party ever move back to the centre-right? How did Sir Keir Starmer win dominance over the Labour Party? Why did Black Lives Matter take off? What was the role of Rosa Parks in the civil rights movement? The more I thought about Twitter and Threads the more important the question seemed to be.

I'd better explain.

I have 420,000 followers on Twitter. I have also slowly built up a range of accounts I follow and which provide me with useful views and information. I learn things all the time from scrolling. Sure, there are fatuous comments and aggressive arguments but there are also academic papers, political speeches and video clips that keep me informed and entertained. And I use it to share both my Times articles

and my new book with other users. To move to another social media app would, therefore, be costly. I've so far only a few hundred followers on Threads and it would take me ages to build up the list of other accounts I wanted to follow. That is assuming they are even posting on Threads. I certainly don't want to have to post things twice or read two apps. Using one absorbs quite enough time.

Of course, there is Elon Musk. I'm not wild about him and he's wild enough about himself to do for the both of us. But the fact that he owns Twitter has little impact on my life. I have no wish (or enough self-importance) to attempt to change the social media environment by my own choice of app. All I am interested in is where I can best find everyone else with whom I enjoy communicating electronically.

In other words, the decision is a co-ordination problem. There is no point me moving if others don't move

Moving from Twitter to Threads requires a shift in the group I follow

and there are significant costs to doing so. It's like going into a room, meeting new business clients and trying to give them fist bumps when they are offering hands to shake.

Considering how this problem might be resolved led me to the fascinating book *Change: How to Make Big Things Happen* by Professor Damon Centola. Part of the book is a study of how Twitter spread in the first place, one that the professor believes challenges many traditional notions of how people acquire habits.

Some social habits, such as using a simple hashtag, spread quickly like a

virus. A well-known influencer might be able to change habits in this way, very quickly. You need encounter the virus only once to catch it. But other social changes are resisted because the change is costly. And this makes the spread harder. The use of a new social media app is an example.

The way such costly change spreads is through closely related people continuously reinforcing the change. So Twitter spread in the San Francisco Bay Area "travelling from block to block, neighbourhood to neighbourhood, across the city". Then it jumped, initially one city at a time, to other cities with links to San Francisco. It took years to explode across the nation. In other words, it is the thickness of local social ties that was crucial.

Centola goes further. His work suggests that within a local community there is a tipping point of 25 per cent that turns the behaviour of individuals into a group norm.

Take the French riots and whether they could happen here (as François Hollande suggested they might). Participating in a riot is costly because few want to risk setting a building on fire only to turn around and discover that no one is joining in. Participants want to be sure they have solved the co-ordination problem and won't be rioting on their own.

So riots don't take place because there is a general feeling of dissatisfaction or even a sharp feeling of racial and social inequalities. They take place because the anger is concentrated within a geographical and socially linked group with enough interconnection for each member to continually reinforce the instinct of others. There might be strong discontent but this turns into rioting only when more than 25 per cent of people in a given small area decide on that course. It can then



CARINA JOHANSEN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A lack of fondness for Elon Musk will not keep most users off his platform

spread to other similar areas. So while riots certainly can happen in Britain (which we know, because they have), the particular social geography of France — concentrating poor and discriminated-against ethnic groups and (often insufficiently mentioned) young males in the same areas — makes the French particularly vulnerable to rioting.

This also applies to other social behaviour. Centola reviews the history of Black Lives Matter and of Rosa Parks, the woman whose refusal to sit at the back of a bus ignited the civil rights movement, to show a similar pattern. Parks, for instance, was not the first person to engage in such a refusal. But she had unusually strong locally concentrated ties.

So social change takes place when the balance of behaviour tips within

concentrated social and geographical groups. Something like this has definitely happened on the right, with the creation of media and local organisation which has changed the discussion, shifting it in a populist direction. And on the left too, where in concentrated groups — among young, highly educated people, for instance — there has been a shift towards a new progressive dialogue (often attacked as "woke").

Whether the balance of opinion will tip back again depends not only on how attractive a change is but how concentrated support for it is. The shift of the Labour Party achieved by Starmer was possible because support for Jeremy Corbyn was lightly held and widespread, whereas Starmer's was concentrated in officeholders and certain constituencies. In the Conservative Party the advantages of concentration may favour the right, the centre lacking the same institutional and media base.

Whether I move from Twitter to Threads depends not on the general advantages of the move but on whether there is a shift in the professional group — commentators, journalists, scientists, social scientists — that I tend to follow and who follow me. That would require it to reach as high as 25 per cent, which is quite a lot of people.

I simply can't tell whether that is going to happen. But it's been really interesting thinking about it.

daniel.finkelstein@thetimes.co.uk

RED BOX

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Comment

Erdogan sniffs an opening as he snubs Putin

Turkey's pivot to Nato shows the weakened Russian leader is no longer the strongman's strongman

Roger Boyes



@ROGERBOYES

They looked like a bunch of blokes flying off on a weekend stag do: blue T-shirts, bearded, well fed, posing on the plane, arms linked with the wiry figure of President Zelensky. They were the five surviving commanders of last year's 80-day Russian siege of the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol, a horrific action that left Ukraine's defenders haggard and traumatised. An exchange in September saw most of the Azovstal prisoners swapped for Russians but the commanders were only freed on the condition they be kept under tight surveillance in Turkey until the end of the war, unable to return to the battlefield.

Now President Erdogan, the Turkish leader, has broken his promise to President Putin and freed them, a gift to Zelensky. Russian commentators are furious. "Turkey is becoming an unfriendly country," fumed Viktor Bondarev, a Russian senator. Sergey Mardan, a propagandist, told Russian television viewers: "Let's all of us share this feeling of national humiliation."

It shouldn't have come as a surprise to the Kremlin. Turkey is a Nato member, it was heading into an alliance summit and wanted to deflect attention from its rather ambiguous relations with Putin's

regime. And Moscow has known for well over 18 months that Turkey has been supplying Ukraine with Bayraktar attack drones. If in doubt, the Kremlin needs only to watch the Eurovision-esque singalong YouTube clips of uniformed Ukrainian bands celebrating the weapon.

But it seems that Erdogan, having just won re-election, is performing a real pivot. He has told Zelensky he backs Ukrainian membership of Nato, has withdrawn his opposition to Swedish membership and is offering Turkish warships to escort Ukrainian grain deliveries through the Black Sea if Russia refuses to renew the deal next week. He has even authorised France to monitor a

He needs to attract investment and revive the faith of the markets

nuclear reactor Russia is building in Turkey. A veritable snub-fest is being dished out for Moscow.

These moves are, of course, transactional. In return for not blackballing Swedish membership of Nato, Stockholm has tightened measures against Kurdish activists. A side deal with the United States could smooth the way for deliveries of F-16 fighter jets to Turkey.

Above all, Erdogan needs to attract western investment and revive the faith of the markets. Neither Russia nor the Gulf can fund Turkey's depleted central bank reserves. The country's finances are in a ragged state. Hence this week's demand that talks about Turkish EU entry be

rekindled. There is barely a chance of this happening. After all, a great chunk of EU aid to Turkey is premised on the country acting as a buffer against millions of refugees heading into Europe.

So it's the illusion of a western tilt that Erdogan wants to create rather than its reality. But there is a serious component to his diplomacy. Since Yevgeny Prigozhin's feeble march on Moscow, Putin is no longer the strongman's strongman. In 2016, Erdogan faced a coup when officers tried to topple him (and Putin offered military support). Erdogan's response: TV appeals calling on Turks to resist the putschists, a state of emergency, sacking 4,000 judges and prosecutors, closing newspapers, terror legislation against the Kurds.

Putin, by contrast, has sleepwalked through his own crisis of legitimacy. Wagner mercenaries have been offered jobs at the Ministry of Defence. Erdogan's respect for his Kremlin crony has gone and this is perhaps the most important development from the Prigozhin fiasco. It is not that the sultan is hugging the West but he does seem to have frozen his membership of the Ottoman-Romanov neo-imperial strongman's club. He might even be calculating that he can outrun Putin and act as a credible champion of the global south. Leaders from South Africa, Zambia, Egypt and Senegal, among others, met Putin in Moscow last month. They told him if he really wanted to convene a Russia-Africa summit in St Petersburg in July he had to show himself capable of peace gestures. They suggested further prisoner exchanges and the return to

Ukraine of children snatched by the Russian invaders. Most of all, though, they worry about galloping inflation generated by food, energy and fertilisers.

That's where the difference between the autocratic styles of Putin and Erdogan become clear. Putin has been operating as a global disruptor. But he fails to fill the power vacuums this creates. Russia's dogged war-making in Ukraine is used as a testing ground for weapons and tactics but the results are too meagre and messy to act as an advertisement for Moscow's arms sales to African states that want their wars to end quickly. Turkey, with its cheap attack drones, has become a more attractive partner.

The same goes for Russia's weaponising of food against Ukraine — laying mines in arable land, blowing up dams, blocking ports, the bombardment of grain silos — which hits Kyiv's many agricultural customers in Africa. Putin was trusted in the south as a standard-bearer of the old Soviet third-world partnerships. Now that trust is oozing away. And Turkey, by vowing to defend the grain traffic through the Black Sea, suddenly looks as if it understands the world beyond the European battlefield.

Erdogan may still be avoiding a clear-cut choice between the West and the Kremlin, and he remains more enigmatic in his way than Putin. He is a master of the political pirouette. One outcome of this week's Nato summit is predictable: everyone will leave it baffled by the intentions of the Turkish leader. He will be satisfied by that.



Secret blacklists have no place in a modern democracy

Dan Kaszeta

I was barred from a government-sponsored international conference on chemical weapons, held in London in May, on the grounds that I had criticised the government and/or officials on social media. I am an internationally recognised chemical weapons expert. Being banned like this was bad for my career. It was also bad for democracy.

I fought this decision on several fronts. MPs and peers helped, as did media coverage in this newspaper and elsewhere. We also raised money for a judicial review, asking a judge to rule that the ban was unlawful. Even the threat of legal action has brought results. The government has acknowledged it acted wrongfully and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, which hosted the conference, has apologised to me.

That is vindication for me. Apologies to other victims of blacklisting would be even better. But underlying problems remain unaddressed. Secret blacklists are indefensible in a modern democracy. The fact that a policy was applied to me in error does not address the issue that they exist. The government has agreed to review the two policies that I and my legal team managed to uncover, and we hope this yields meaningful change.

The "evidence" against me was my Twitter account. Trawling someone's social media accounts and evaluating them for political beliefs is an act of "special category personal data processing" that privacy and data protection laws rightly restrict.

Many other questions remain unanswered. Why were the government's initial answers so misleading? Does this kind of secret, unaccountable vetting mean officials are breaking their legal obligations, under the civil service code, to deal with private citizens fairly and impartially?

More fundamentally, how are such guidelines lawful? Even if narrowly applied to specific categories of government events, they still infringe free speech and freedom of belief. The government is required to evaluate whether their policies affect people protected under the Equality Act. Did they?

In my case, it appears the policies were not followed and I was subjected to some sort of informal screening. How much of this goes on? I was seemingly blacklisted because officials thought a policy existed but — as was admitted to my legal team — did not apply it formally.

This kind of guesswork is the hallmark of totalitarian regimes. We have moved on from the days when Henry II's knights murdered Thomas Becket because they thought the king would approve. We are not done yet.

Dan Kaszeta is an associate fellow at the Royal United Services Institute

Matthew Parris Notebook

Let the rail firms run under their own steam

Towards the end of the last century, before the privatisation of our railways, I wrote a sorrowful column about the neglect by British Rail of the cross-country traveller. Commuters make up the bulk of passenger travel, but for ordinary families away from the metropolis, travelling between places in the regions and home counties (especially at weekends) is their principal experience of trains. So when a private company took the CrossCountry franchise and more recently acquired some spacious seven-car, refurbished InterCity 125s, there seemed some hope.

Dashed. I felt so sorry last Sunday for the mothers, fathers and children trying, with luggage, to get from the West Country to places like Basingstoke, Oxford, Birmingham and (my destination) Derby. The overcrowding was horrendous. Even people with reserved seats couldn't

reach them. Trains were delayed by crowds of desperate passengers trying to get on or off. Why not more carriages? I've made inquiries. This isn't the company's fault. To save money, the Department for Transport (which is to say the Treasury) has ordered them to scrap their I25 fleet. They're restricted now to cramped four and five-car trains: screamingly inadequate.

London-based civil servants don't much use cross-country services, so they don't care. For anyone who thinks nationalising our railways is the answer, this serves as a warning. Rail companies need more autonomy, not less. HM Treasury doesn't like railways. Never has.

Saving face

Monday began with a swim and a vigorous towel-dry of my hair. My partner being away, I missed breakfast, dressed and got straight down to work writing a column. Absorbed in this, I missed lunch too. I happened to notice it was 4pm, leapt up and packed hurriedly for the London train. It was pure, lucky coincidence that I caught sight of my reflection in the kitchen window. My shock of still unbrushed

hair stood almost on end. I looked like Ken Dodd on a bad hair day.

Situation rectified, thank heavens, or I'd be exposed to comment on the station platform. But the problem is this: for days, sometimes, I never look in a mirror. It's not modesty. It's vanity. Inside, I'm a leaping spring lamb, but in the mirror I'd see a crumpled, grouchy-looking codger, corners of his mouth turned down. There's a tear-jerking Oscar Wilde story about a misshapen dwarf in a forest, found and adopted by a beautiful princess as a grotesque curiosity, like a pug. In her palace he encounters his first mirror. It all dawns on him. His heart breaks and he dies.

Troubled waters

Many years ago, at a party conference in Birmingham with its wonderful, well-tended network of canals, a volunteer talked me into signing up for a small, regular contribution to the charity on to which the government had offloaded its responsibilities for maintaining Britain's incredible waterways. Ever since, I've followed the work of that brilliantly run charity, the Canal & River



Trust. In government ownership our canals had been heading for ruin (see Treasury, above). Today, though, a huge amount is being done to repair, restore and maintain. Most of the cost comes from donors and fees from boat owners, but government contributes a quarter. Ministers have just announced a decision to cut this contribution by freezing it for a decade, as inflation eats into its value. The trust is in despair. Walk by a canal, as I so often do. Write to your MP.

Bad faith

I had to do a double-take. "Archbishop of Canterbury: Cut university funding if students insulted." That was the headline in my Friday Times. Dr Welby was speaking at a synagogue and the insults he had in mind were antisemitic. For good measure, the prelate mentioned anti-trans insults too. And this from the leader of a church that tells gays we are sinners in the eyes of God, refuses to ordain would-be priests in same-sex relationships and bans gay marriages in its churches. What is it in the definition of "insulting" that doesn't apply here? How un-self-aware is it possible for an archbishop to be?

I grow weary of Anglican leaders wringing their hands and telling you it's difficult. It isn't. So here, Dr Welby, is an insult of my own. This is cowardly.



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West Country is suffering from Tory neglect

The region's beauty masks a forgotten electorate lagging behind the rest of the nation in education and social mobility

Alice Thomson



@ALICETTIMES

It's July and the cars, caravans, surf boards, wetsuits and Dryrobes are wending their way down the A303 past Stonehenge or creeping along the M5 towards Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. When you think about the West Country, it's sandcastles, cream teas, scrumpy, retirement bungalows, Lorna Doone, Arthurian myths and buddleia. Anything but poverty. No one sees the southwest as a problem. It's a holiday destination, with its moors and tors, high hedges, clifftop views and villages with names like Huish Champflower.

Politicians buy ice creams on the seafront for the cameras, pose at Glastonbury or, in George Osborne's case, hold their wedding in a stunning 14th-century church in Bruton with cocktails round the pool at the immaculate Newt hotel. But they rarely talk about the peninsula. Britain is carved into the north-south divide, red wall voters, blue-rinse Tunbridge Wells, northern powerhouse and London. The wild west is the forgotten electorate. Since Pitt the

elder and Palmerston, the West Country has produced few senior politicians to give it heft and profile in Westminster. Boris Johnson quickly escaped his childhood Exmoor valley.

At next week's by-election in Somerton and Frome, caused by the Tory MP David Warburton's cocaine use, even Sarah Dyke, the Liberal Democrat candidate tipped to win, was flummoxed when asked about poverty. Questioned on a political podcast about deprivation in the area, she stalled, saying she had drunk her coffee too fast, before adding: "That's a subject I don't know about."

That's the problem. Few seem to know the southwest has the worst educational outcomes for disadvantaged young people in the

Few politicians have emerged since Pitt the Elder and Palmerston

country. "I blame the beaches," says Karl Tucker, chairman of one of the biggest employers, Yeo Valley. "It's hard to look past the sandy stretches."

The West Country is the perfect haven to holiday or retire. Devon and Cornwall have the third-lowest crime rates of the 43 police forces in England and Wales while the highest levels of happiness are in St Ives. It's a contented place for many, which is

why house prices have soared, boosted by the influx of second home-owners. Their only grumble is the occasional week of rain or the sewage pumped on to the beaches.

But the 5.6 million who work in the region often feel abandoned. They are rarely mentioned in the government's levelling-up agenda, yet by the age of 11 the children of the southwest are the furthest behind of any English region, with only 37 per cent of children from disadvantaged backgrounds reaching expected levels in reading, writing and maths. Fewer children than in any other region go on to higher-level apprenticeships or university. Instead, young adults are more likely to be in unskilled work than their peers elsewhere. In the constituency of Bridgwater and West Somerset, 42 per cent are in unskilled employment compared with 28 per cent nationally.

Last year I was asked to join the South West Social Mobility Commission, which brings together major employers, charities and public services with the University of Exeter. It was a 17-year-old girl called Bella Dash who convinced me of the need for change. Bella and her mother had been made homeless in Devon on three occasions by the time she was nine and she still couldn't read or write as she struggled to attend classes. Now she

is working as a cleaner but in lockdown, when given a computer by her school, she decided to teach herself GCSEs, discovered learning and excelled in her exams. In October she is taking up a place at Oxford to read geography. "Not all my friends want to become professors, but I don't feel many of us are being given a chance to be anything other than hospitality and care staff or farm workers," she said.

One of the biggest blocks on

Bus routes have been eviscerated and trains are often cancelled

aspiration is transport. School absenteeism has increased since the pandemic to 79 per cent, the highest in the country, but attendance has been a problem for years as pupils struggle to reach their schools when bus routes have been eviscerated and trains are often cancelled. Transport investment stands at £308 a head compared with a national average of £474. Students living in Dulverton, on Exmoor, face a 12-hour day to reach their nearest higher-education college. Pupils run the daily risk of missed connections. The dropout rate at sixth form is 27 per cent. The area needs more accessible colleges and more inducement to get there.

Under-18s in London and other cities don't have to pay for their bus fare. They shouldn't have to here.

Another issue is the lack of high-speed broadband, except in Johnson's Exmoor holiday cottage where a crack team of engineers laid expensive cabling. Every rural child needs a connection for remote learning. The University of Exeter has developed a tutoring project for undergraduates to help hone the basic writing skills of 12-year-olds. Every pupil showed an improvement in accuracy. Students were given credits and gained teaching experience; pupils said it boosted their confidence and allowed them to hear about campus life. "It's a win-win," says Lee Elliot Major, professor of social mobility at the university.

Change can happen, but the Tories' neglect of their far-flung shires shows in the polls. They lost Tiverton in a by-election last year and they're about to lose Somerton and Frome. If the general election was held tomorrow, newly drawn constituencies such as Plymouth Moor View would be won by Labour with a huge swing. Electorally the West Country is up for grabs — neither Labour nor the Lib Dems are loved — but politicians of all parties need to concentrate on rolling out policy change, not just beach towels, in this idyllic but unequal land.

Letters to the Editor



Prayer problems

Sir, Your report “Our Father” is problematic for abused children” (news, Jul 8) troubles me. For generations the church’s use of the term has served to remind us of the expectations and responsibilities of those who become fathers: to care for their children and to support their mothers, with whom they share one of life’s most important responsibilities. We need to impress this more firmly than ever on men who may become fathers, even if this is at the expense of the feelings of those who have been harmed by their fathers, otherwise more children may well come to be neglected or harmed.

Peter Inson
East Mersea, Essex

Sir, It seems that our archbishops are vainly trying to catch up with Mary Baker Eddy, the 19th-century founder of Christian Science. She routinely addressed the Almighty as Father-Mother God, and in night-time prayers in our house when the children were small so did they.

Rosemary Macgillivray
Westbury, Wilts

Sir, Removing the masculinisation of God is easy. The Reform Synagogues did it years ago. The word Eternal instead of Lord is now in all our prayer books. So are our foremothers. Praying to “God of Abraham” has become “God of Abraham and Sarah”. Replacing “Our Father” with “Eternal God” will unsettle many, as did our changes at first, but 30 years on it seems only sensible and sensitive.

Barry Hyman
Bushey Heath, Herts

Rail staff initiative

Sir, Spot on, Libby Purves (comment, Jul 10). When the line from London to Devon was blocked by a landslide I decided to travel as far south as the train would take me, Salisbury, and look for a hotel. I asked a rail worker on the platform if there was any chance of getting home that night. He directed me to a colleague and eventually I, and one other passenger, rode splendidly to Devon in a taxi, paid for by South Western Railway. The staff used their organising skills and initiative and I’m sure got great satisfaction from helping. They just need to be on the platform not behind a desk that you can’t access once you’ve gone through the barrier.

Hilary Bratt

Seaton, Devon

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Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF



What the ‘age of migration’ means for Britain

Sir, William Hague’s article (“Even right wingers know we need migrants”, comment, Jul 11) contains much good sense but overlooks the need for much wider public consultation about the implications of whatever is proposed: how many people we need; the skills they have; how to house, feed and provide water to them; what it means for our ecology and our climate change goals; the impact on the prospects of our settled population.

Over the past 20 years the public has been presented with a series of facts accomplish, the news that last year net migration reached 606,000 being the most recent. No wonder polarisation has taken root and polling reveals that population pressure is of concern to some two thirds of our fellow citizens.

To counter this we have to provide a forum for an open, transparent, evidence-based discussion of the inevitable trade-offs. My private member’s bill introduced last year proposing an Office for Demographic Change, along the lines of the Office for Budget Responsibility, would have done just that.

Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts
House of Lords

High street hopes

Sir, It was sobering to read Richard Morrison’s summary (Times2, Jul 7) of the thousands of community buildings which have closed their doors in recent years, many of them historic sites which have stood at the heart of communities for generations, from pubs to cinemas.

High streets are among these places facing challenges, but theirs isn’t always a story of sorry decline. Through our high streets heritage action zones programme we’re working hard to revive more than 60 historic high streets across England. We do not consider this a straightforward task, but using and enhancing an area’s special heritage is a proven way of boosting economic revival. We’re also bringing people back to high streets with cultural events because their future depends on more than shopping trips. It’s fun and vibrant but at its core is a serious message: we humans need places and spaces to come together, interact, experience art and culture, complain about the weather, shop, eat and work.

With the right kind of attention and funding, we know our historic

Sir, William Hague offers immigration as the answer to an ageing and under-skilled/motivated population. However, like all Ponzi schemes, it is unsustainable, as the short-term solution only magnifies the longer-term problems. Migrants also become old and dependent, and forever increasing our overall numbers adds to the problems of crowding and lack of infrastructure. Sustainable solutions to our problems will never be found while we opt for the short-term fix of immigration.

Duncan Heenan
Kington, Worcs

Sir, William Hague says that he has sympathy with the government’s approach to the criminal gangs fuelling the illegal crossings of the Channel, despite the various difficulties involved in deporting refugees to Rwanda; and he invites suggestions from critics of this policy as to what should be done instead. With all the resources at its disposal, surely there should be a way in which the government can pursue the criminal gangs themselves, rather than their victims.

Roderic Pearson
Surbiton, Surrey

high streets can be those places again.

Duncan Wilson
CEO, Historic England

Rewriting Macbeth

Sir, The idea that the Porter scene from *Macbeth* should be rewritten (news, Jul 11) reminds me of a conversation one parents’ evening when I was an English teacher. “Everything you teach is so dark and gloomy. Can’t you find something on the syllabus with a bit of joy?” the parent pleaded. If the potential for rewrites were to be extended, it could ensure that neither Romeo nor Juliet need die and could live happily ever after; Macbeth could see the error of his ways and return to the path of righteousness; and Lear could learn to value and love all of his daughters. Simply writing this makes me feel so much better, so imagine the impact on the mental health of the nation’s youth, their parents and teachers.

Tim Kerin
London E7

Sir, There were no trigger warnings (news, Jul 5; letters, Jul 6, 7 & 10) on a school outing to see *Macbeth* at the

Sir, Quite apart from the £6 million a day of taxpayers’ money being spent on housing migrants, we now learn that an additional £500,000 a day is being spent on a “buffer” of 5,000 extra rooms (news, Jul 11). This is a significant number of hotel rooms to remove from the market and has meant that the cost of staying in those hotels which are still available has increased. Recent trips to several UK cities would suggest that room rates are up by 35 to 40 per cent, another burden for taxpayers to shoulder.

Max Ingram
Emneth, Norfolk

Sir, The order to make a child migrant centre bland by painting over Disney murals has caused some pointed debate. As a fiscal conservative I am more concerned about the waste of public money. In the face of a cost of living crisis and the highest burden of state spending in a generation, rather than government belt-tightening we find a “magic money tree” to pay for a team to administer whitewash. Perhaps a saga more worthy of a Hogarth cartoon than a Disney one.

Paul V Green
Hawkhurst, Kent

Anyone for tennis?

Sir, Breaking the 11pm Wimbledon curfew to finish the show matches is not the answer (news & sport, Jul 11). It is far too London-centric as it presupposes everyone can get home after midnight. I find it equally galling to miss the end of a great match because I have to leave to travel home, as for the match to be suspended.

Katharine Long
Debenture holder, Sevenoaks, Kent

Sir, Start play earlier. Wimbledon is a sporting event showcasing the best in their sport. The players deserve a schedule that allows them to play at their best and we as spectators deserve to see them in peak form. Change is needed if this tournament is to remain the ultimate grand slam.

Fiona Torrilla
East Grinstead, W Sussex

Sir, There is an easy answer to the debacle of disrupted schedules: in the name of equality let the men play the best of three sets like the women.

Margaret Jackson
Hindhead, Surrey

Silent movie sequel

Sir, Giles Coren (notebook, Jul 4) and your correspondent (letter, Jul 11) highlight the challenges of noisy young cinema audiences. Some years ago I managed to get my daughter’s birthday party of very vocal ten-year-olds into our local cinema only to be confronted by an attendant who asked their age. I realised that it was a Cert 12 film. Quick as a flash one bright spark said: “But we were premature.”

The attendant acknowledged a scoreless draw and ushered them in on strict condition of total silence.

Ian Elliott
Belfast

Finding one’s voice

Sir, I am not sure why we are being asked to adopt this newly invented term “oracy” for what was until quite recently known as “speaking and listening” or, more traditionally, “rhetoric” (news, Jul 11). The English dictionary is already twice as thick as the French version.

Chris Hall
Falmouth, Cornwall

Sir, The proposal to teach oracy in schools shows how things have changed. When I was young back in the early 1930s we were told that children should be seen but not heard.

David Sheppard
Christchurch, Dorset

Sir, I remember when oracy first made an appearance on the English curriculum 30 or 40 years ago. One of my pupils remarked laconically: “Amazing, isn’t it? They spend years making you shut up and then expect you to speak out.”

Jane Whiter
Old Basing, Hants

Sir, Sir Keir Starmer’s proposal to encourage oracy in young people is entirely laudable. Perhaps his next project should be to encourage auracy (the willingness to listen) in politicians.

Ian Ferguson
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warks

SAILORS WHO DESERT THEIR SHIPS

FROM THE TIMES JULY 12, 1923

A start was made today in the legal proceedings against the men who, it is alleged, deserted from British ships in New York and joined the crew of the giant liner Leviathan, which reached Southampton yesterday. Twenty-two summonses against British crew members have been received by Southampton police and if they are not obeyed, arrest warrants will be issued. They have been prepared at the instance of the Cunard Company, and other companies will soon follow their example. It is probable, too, that this is only a first instalment. The reason

why the number is so small is the difficulty of identifying particular deserters as being off the Leviathan. The crew of this liner is 90 per cent British, and there are about 200 men on board who may have left British liners at New York after having signed on for the round voyage. In recent months British companies have been seriously hampered by the increasing number of desertions in America. An official of the Cunard Line said that during the last four months they had had more than 600 desertions, and altogether it is estimated that during that time the British Transatlantic companies have lost more than 1,000 men by desertion. There is always a certain amount of desertion, but it has never reached such proportions. The Cunard Line were entitled to apply for a warrant for the arrest of the men, who could be summarily punished, but a warrant could not be put into action on the vessel, which is technically American territory. If the

summons proves unavailing, more drastic measures will be taken. The law on the matter is clear and involves some unusual penalties. Under the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894 a deserter is, in the first place, liable to forfeit all the goods he leaves aboard and the wages he has earned. If the desertion takes place abroad, he may be made to pay the wages he may earn in any other ship until his return to the UK “to satisfy any excess of wages paid to any substitute engaged in his place at a higher rate” and also, “except in the UK he shall be liable to imprisonment for any period not exceeding 12 weeks, with or without hard labour.” The companies intend to ask for the enforcement of these monetary penalties, and they hope that an example like this may have the desired effect.

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Daily Universal Register

UK: Legal challenge begins at the High Court in London to stop migrants being housed on the former RAF site and Dambusters' home at Scampton, Lincolnshire.

Nature notes



Scarborough is perhaps best associated with sand, cricket and fish and chips. But recently those enjoying a donkey ride might have also experienced one of Britain's wildest animals. A northern minke whale was seen in the North Sea. Though small in cetacean terms, minkes grow up to 35ft long and weigh more than 8 tonnes.

Following summer shoals of sprats and mackerel, minke are often seen in Yorkshire waters, but what made this sighting extra special was the fact that the minke was breaching — using its large tail (or fluke) to propel itself clean out of the water. Whales breach to communicate with each other. The splashing sounds can travel over 100km.

JONATHAN TULLOCH

Birthdays today



Malala Yousafzai, pictured, education activist, the youngest person to win a Nobel prize (2014), 26; Peter Addyman, founder, Jorvik Viking Centre, York, president, York Civic Trust (2015-19), 84; Prof Simon Blackburn, philosopher, writer, *Mirror, Mirror* (2014), and broadcaster, 79; Irina Bokova, director-general, Unesco (2009-17), 71; Ben Burtt, film-maker, best effects and sound-effects editing Oscars for *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (1982) and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989), 75; Thomas Campbell, art historian, chief executive, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2009-17), 61; Julio César Chávez, boxer, six-time world champion in three weight divisions, 61; André Cox, the 20th general of the Salvation Army (2013-18), 69; Annabel Croft, tennis player, former British No 1, sports pundit, 57; Sir Gareth Edwards, rugby union player, Wales scrum half (1967-78), 76; George Freeman, Conservative MP for Mid Norfolk, science, research and innovation minister, 56; Anna Friel, actress, *Marcella* (2016-20), 47; Prof Timothy Garton Ash, historian and writer, *Homelands: A Personal History of Europe* (2023), 68; Richard Herring, comedian, 56; Lionel Jospin, prime minister of France (1997-2002), 86; Cheryl Ladd, actress, *Charlie's Angels* (1977-81), 72; Sir John Lewis, chairman, Photo-Me International, Attingham Trust (1990-2020), 83; Walter Murch, film-maker, best sound Oscars for *Apocalypse Now* (1979) and *The English Patient* (1996), 80; Jeremy O'Grady, founding editor and editor-in-chief, *The Week*, 70; Gaby Roslin, television presenter, *The Big Breakfast* (1992-96), 59; Graham Seed, actor, best known as Nigel Pargetter in *The Archers*, 73; Luke Shaw, footballer, Manchester United and England, 28; Baroness (Joanna) Shields, minister for internet safety and security (2015-17), 61; King Lavaka Tupou VI of Tonga, 64;

On this day

In 1957 the US surgeon-general Leroy E Burney revealed the Public Health Service's findings of a direct causal relationship between smoking and lung cancer.

The last word

"Wherever there is anything to be done, there Providence is sure to direct my steps." Horatio Nelson, letter to his wife, Frances (August 1796)



Nato Lake

President Putin hoped his invasion of Ukraine would result in "less Nato" — but Sweden's admission to the alliance means he is getting more of it in the Baltic

Sweden has a long history of neutrality. It last fought a set-piece war in 1814 (a brief affair against Norway) and avoided direct involvement in both world wars. But the Nordic kingdom guards its territorial integrity jealously with capable armed forces which belie a population of only 10.4 million. Now, this policy of non-alignment, which survived 45 years of the Cold War, is coming to an end. The most powerful military alliance in history is about to become even more so with the announcement of Sweden's forthcoming accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

This expansion of Nato, announced ahead of its summit in Vilnius, follows the admission of previously neutral Finland in April and represents another significant advance for the cause of collective security in Europe, as well as another headache for an increasingly isolated Russia. Sweden's membership will strengthen the alliance's sparsely populated northern flank, providing new overland links to previously isolated members Norway and Finland, and making Russia's naval and air bases on the Kola Peninsula in the Arctic more vulnerable to conventional strikes in a limited conflict. And it will transform the Baltic into a Nato lake, leaving Russia with only two short stretches of coastline, around St Petersburg and

the isolated enclave of Kaliningrad, in a sea dominated by its western rival. The Nato members most vulnerable to Russian attack, the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, will also be reassured by the proximity of an effective new ally that can watch their backs in the air and at sea. In addition to the advanced American-made Patriot air defence system, capable of intercepting ballistic and cruise missiles and aircraft, Sweden also maintains a refined intelligence-gathering capability born in the era when the situation was reversed and the Warsaw Pact controlled much of the Baltic coastline.

For President Putin, meanwhile, Sweden's siding with Nato represents yet another damaging setback, another unintended consequence of his reckless invasion of Ukraine. Nato already enjoys overwhelming superiority over Russia in terms of its collective defence budget — some \$1.028 trillion (thanks to a two-thirds contribution by the United States) compared with maybe \$66 billion — and it will soon have another wealthy country to add to its 31 members. The pro-Nato stance adopted by Swedes and Finns is directly attributable to Russian aggression against its weaker neighbour to the south. Of course, the Kremlin tried to play the bully with the two Nordic countries,

threatening "serious military and political consequences" if they abandoned neutrality. Sensibly, these crude attempts at blackmail were ignored.

Sweden's admission to Nato is significant in another regard: it marks a warming in the alliance's relationship with its wayward but vital southern member, Turkey. Stockholm's application to join the alliance was placed in jeopardy earlier this year when President Erdogan of Turkey threatened to veto it on the grounds that Sweden was giving refuge to Kurdish terrorists. This hardline stance played well during Erdogan's spring re-election campaign and has reaped results, with tougher Swedish anti-terror laws targeting Kurdish groups.

For Sweden, admission to the Nato club cannot come soon enough. A Pew Research Center survey shows Sweden's attitude to Russia to be in a class of its own with 98 per cent of its people holding a negative view. Jens Stoltenberg, Nato's secretary-general, has said that President Putin invaded Ukraine because he wanted "less Nato". With Swedish membership he is getting a whole lot more in his Baltic and Arctic backyards. There will be another country with a flag of blue and gold looking at Sweden's entry with envious eyes. Ukraine needs a security guarantee of its own.

Careless Complacency

Greater political honesty is needed to fix the deepening problem of social care

The 75th birthday of the NHS passed last week in a mood of anxiety about the service's future. It is notable, however, that no date of comparable significance even exists to be commemorated when it comes to the National Health Service's dysfunctional, less-loved sibling: social care. If anything, it may soon be appropriate to observe an altogether more depressing passage of time: the many years that both major political parties have spent, both in government and opposition, promising to cure the sector's long-term ills while failing to produce anything like a solution equal to the challenge of placing adult social care on a sustainable and humane footing.

It is common to hear complaints that certain subjects — the NHS, foremost — have become political footballs. But worse than this is when, faced with a problem of significant scale and complexity, both parties contrive to kick an issue permanently into touch, as has been the fate of social care. Such collective political inaction is understandable, if not excusable. Neither major party has been willing to accept the cost involved in fixing the system, or the challenge of selling an alter-

native to the public. Theresa May, the last prime minister to approach voters over the issue, received a kicking in the 2017 election, her solution lambasted as a "dementia tax". The electorate is still waiting for a plan on social care that presents clear options on how to fund it. This may well involve payments in addition to tax for some, based on means testing. If so, this should be stated clearly and honestly.

These contrasting attitudes to healthcare and social care presuppose an operational separation between the two services which in practice does not exist. An inadequate social care system inevitably displaces its problems onto a public health system often ill-equipped to deal with them. According to research by Age UK, reported in The Times yesterday, more than 850,000 annual hospital admissions among the over-65s might be avoided were better community care available. Over the past decade, A&E visits by the over-80s have increased by 40 per cent. This is an additional pressure on a health service already struggling with a waiting list of 7.4 million, one in ten posts sitting vacant, and the recent disruption of strikes;

but it is also bad for the elderly patients. Once admitted to hospital, those over 75 tend to stay longer and are prone to re-admission. One in six return within a month of being discharged.

Social care provision should aspire to more than confining the elderly to hospital for the remainder of their lives. Often they do not need to be there. An estimated 1.6 million people over 65 require more help with daily activities like eating and dressing. Such needs should be met outside hospital settings, alleviating pressure on the health-care system and prolonging the patient's autonomy. Between 2015 and 2020, however, the number of nursing posts in social care fell by 24 per cent, with many nurses leaving for higher pay in the private sector. The pressure of an ageing population means the shortfall between nurses and patients will only worsen, if unaddressed; over the past decade, the proportion of the population aged over 65 has risen from 16 to 19 per cent. A greater degree of political honesty about the cost of meeting this growing challenge is required, both for the sake of public sector efficiency and the treatment of those who need, or will need, such care.

Nigella Bites

Britain's favourite cook has decreed that dinner parties are a bore

He was very excited. It wasn't often that he was invited to the home of a famous cook for dinner. True, the instruction that "we'll all be in our pyjamas" had been a bit unexpected, but not unexciting in itself. He'd seen the cook in her pyjamas, on her TV show, when she'd raid the fridge at midnight for trifle. His own, though, weren't quite that nice. For one thing, they weren't satin.

The food, though, was unexpected. The other guests, in their pyjamas, seemed confused, too.

"For a starter," she said, "a delicacy!" He poked in the bowl. "It's..." he said. "It's a Twiglet."

"Yes," said the cook. "I prepared them myself."

"You bake your own Twiglets?" he asked.

"Oh no!" she said. "I just opened the packet!"

After the Twiglets there was Monster Munch. Then some Scotch eggs, which the cook said she had "sourced from a delightful little man around the corner" but which said "Tesco" on the packet.

"Well, yes," explained the famous cook. "He works in the garage."

For a while, everybody just looked at each other.

"Look, Nigella," he said, eventually. "I don't mean to sound ungrateful. But you're supposed to be one of our top cooks! A byword for luxurious

home cuisine. Yet here we are, having what is essentially a picnic for intensely working-class toddlers from the 1970s."

The famous cook clapped her hands.

"Isn't it marvellous?" she said. "Dinner parties are such a bore. Chopping the onions. And all the washing up! Speaking of which, our main course should be here any moment. From Deliveroo."

"Go on?" he said.

"Chicken McNuggets!" she beamed.

"Mmm," he said, weakly. "Lukewarm nuggets."

"Don't be silly!" she said. "We'll pop them in the mickrowahvey!"

World

Killer ‘uses Strava’ to shoot Russian sub commander

Russia

Marc Bennetts

It was early morning when Stanislav Rzhitsky, a Russian submarine commander accused of war crimes in Ukraine, jogged through parkland close to a sports centre in Krasnodar, a city in southern Russia. It would be the last run of his life.

An assassin dressed all in black fired repeatedly, hitting Rzhitsky four times in the chest and the back, according to local media. Rzhitsky, 42, died on the spot. The ambush bore all the hallmarks of a professional hit.

The assassin is likely to have tracked Rzhitsky through the Strava jogging app, according to Baza, an independent Russian media outlet that is known for its sources within the security services. “He constantly uploaded his runs ... and he almost always ran along the same route,” it said. “Largely thanks to this, it would not have been difficult for his killer to choose a convenient point for reprisal.”

Strava suspended its services in Belarus and Russia over the war in May last



A pistol found by police investigating the killing of Stanislav Rzhitsky, right

year but many people in both countries continue to use it via VPN, or virtual private network, technology, which is easily available and disguises an internet user’s location.

Rzhitsky was a second-rank captain in the Russian navy and commanded the Krasnodar submarine, which is in service with Russia’s Black Sea fleet. The submarine is said to have fired the Kalibr cruise missiles that killed 27 people, including children, in the city of Vinnytsia in central Ukraine last July.

He was also deputy head of the military mobilisation department in Krasnodar. His assassination took place early on Monday but was not immediately reported by Russian police.

Yesterday evening, a man was arrested and charged with Rzhitsky’s murder. Video published by investigators showed armed officers bursting into a house and seizing the alleged gunman, who was wearing only his underpants. The suspect identified himself as Stanislav Denisov. He told officers that he was born in Ukraine and Russian media said he was 64.

App revealed military bases

Lara Wildenberg

Fitness-tracking apps first became a source of security concern when Strava inadvertently revealed the perimeters of foreign military bases in 2018. The San Francisco-based service published a heat map showing its users’ most popular exercise routes around the world.

It lit up regular routes in places that otherwise had a conspicuous lack of Strava activity, thus giving an idea of the location and layout of military bases in countries such as Syria and Afghanistan.

The app uses GPS co-ordinates from phones or wearable fitness devices to track athletes’ exercises and compare their performances with others. Strava, which has 95 million users, updates its global heat map each month so users can zoom in for street-level details. Users can hide their activity from the heat map by marking their exercise as visible to “only you” or opting out in their privacy settings.

An investigation by the Israeli open-source intelligence group FakeReporter in June last year claimed to show that unidentified operatives were using the app to track security personnel working at secret bases in Israel.

In August last year, The Times found that Royal Navy personnel at Faslane were also inadvertently revealing personal information. The naval base near Glasgow, home to Britain’s Trident nuclear deterrent, had several saved routes on Strava, including one titled “Race to the home of the UK submarine service” and another titled “RM BFT”, meaning Royal Marines basic fitness test. The publicly available speed rankings had the potential to reveal officers’ names and addresses and details of when they were on board nuclear submarines.

Mash, a media outlet based Moscow, identified him as a former head of Ukraine’s national karate federation. It said that he had lived in Bucha, the town near Kyiv where Russian soldiers killed and tortured civilians last year. The GUR, the Ukrainian military intelligence service, published a slick on-

line video showing its forces engaged in combat operations. “The time for retribution has come,” it said. “GUR is working.” It also said that the Russian naval captain had been “eliminated” and provided a detailed account of the attack.

“Due to heavy rain, the park was deserted, so there are no witnesses who could provide details or recognise the attacker,” it said. Local weather records indicate, however, that the weather was sunny and fine on the morning of the shooting. Rzhitsky’s watch and headphones were found at the scene, suggesting that robbery was not a motive.

Kyrylo Budanov, head of the GUR, insisted that Ukraine had played no role in the assassination. “The roots of what happened yesterday in Russia must be sought in the Russian Federation itself, where internal protest against the war is growing,” he said. It is common for Ukrainian officials to celebrate attacks in Russia while stopping just short of claiming responsibility.

Yet as doubts emerged about Rzhitsky’s role in the war, the Ukrainian armed forces claimed that he had been assassinated by Kremlin agents after refusing to take part in further attacks following the strike on Vinnytsia. “It is obvious that he was eliminated by his own side for refusing to continue to carry out orders,” the military said, without giving evidence.

Friends and family said that Rzhitsky could not have been involved in the Vinnytsia strike, claiming he had handed in his resignation from the military in December 2021, shortly before Russia invaded Ukraine. They added, however, that he had continued to serve at a base in Russian-occupied Crimea until August of last year, when his resignation was accepted and he took up a position with the city administration in Krasnodar.

Rzhitsky’s address and personal details had been uploaded to Myrotvorets (Peacemaker), an unofficial Ukrainian website that lists people who are said to be enemies of the country. The word “Liquidated” was stamped across his photograph on the website yesterday.

Moscow has accused Ukraine of being behind bombs that killed Vladlen Tatarsky, a pro-war blogger, and Darya Dugina, the daughter of a nationalist ideologue. Budanov neither confirmed nor denied Ukraine’s involvement.

Invasion leaves Putin facing more Nato in the Baltic, leading article, page 23



Protests in Israel after vote to limit Supreme Court

Thousands of Israeli protesters turned out yesterday, blocking motorways and thronging the main airport in response to a vote passed just after midnight that severely limited the powers of the Supreme Court (Anshel Pfeffer writes).

More than 15,000 people assembled at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv and some clashed with the police while trying to cut off access to the main terminal.

Demonstrators who had called for an anti-government “day of disruption” grappled with police when

officers tried to move them to a smaller terminal. Some had arrived with luggage, pretending to be passengers and entering departures, where they began singing the national anthem before they were removed.

Many in the crowd outside the airport wore ear defenders as they chanted and used drums, vuvuzelas and loudspeakers.

About 84,000 passengers were due to use the airport on 500 flights yesterday. The protests began at 6am, when hundreds of people, many belonging to a group of reserve officers in the army, set up a tent camp on a motorway north of

Tel Aviv. They hung a banner on a bridge, reading: “No Entrance to Dictatorship.” Other groups began to block motorways leading to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa as police moved in using water cannon.

Last night 75 protesters had been arrested and 15 were injured and being treated in hospital.

One protest took place outside the Supreme Court in Jerusalem, where protesters blocked the road to the prime minister’s office and were pushed back by mounted police.

Hundreds of reserve officers have signed petitions refusing to turn up for duty. The legal bill, passed in its first parliamentary reading by the votes of the coalition of the prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, eliminates the authority of the Supreme Court to veto the government. The



law's opponents claim that it will drastically hobble judicial review and leave the state with untrammelled powers, a prospect that has led to months of demonstrations. Netanyahu responded before the debate that "correcting the reasonableness argument is not the end of the democracy; it is strengthening the democracy".

The 64-56 vote in the Knesset is just the first reading and there is the possibility that changes will be made before it becomes law.

The opposition leaders, Yair Lapid and Benny Gantz, want emergency talks with the government on constitutional changes. The coalition began trying six months ago to pass a series of laws aimed at



There were dozens of arrests as demonstrators clashed with police on a day of disruption in Tel Aviv, top and centre, and in Jerusalem, above

Twist in case of missing 'Vatican Girl' after Netflix documentary
Page 27



Collectors prepare to swoop as prehistoric skeletons go on sale
Page 28



Biden's four-letter temper tantrums leave staff shaken

United States

David Charter Washington

President Biden is so prone to angry outbursts behind the scenes that some White House staff are now afraid to face him alone.

Biden, 80, has long been known for showing flashes of temper in public but past and present White House staff say that, in private, he is quick to swear and shout at them despite his general image as a consensus-builder.

Two authors who have interviewed numerous staff say that the US president's anger tends to flare up when he senses condescension or feels boxed in and "there are no good options" from the issue under discussion.

Presidential temper tantrums are nothing new. Bill Clinton was known for blowing up and Donald Trump reportedly screamed at White House lawyers, but Biden publicly warned staff on his first day in office that he would "fire you on the spot" if they treated colleagues with "disrespect".

Biden's tendency to snap at reporters who ask questions he does not like may also help explain why he has held fewer press conferences than all but two presidents — Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan — in the past 100 years.

"Behind closed doors, Biden has such a quick-trigger temper that some aides try to avoid meeting alone with him. Some take a colleague, almost as a shield against a solo blast," wrote Alex Thompson, a reporter for Axios.

"The president's admonitions include: 'God dammit, how the f*** don't you know this?', 'Don't f***ing bullshit me!' and 'Get the f*** out of here!' according to current and former Biden aides who have witnessed and been on the receiving end of such outbursts."

Thompson, who is writing a book about the Biden presidency, told The Times that no one was immune from the outbursts. "There is occasionally a menacing and humiliating tone to his diatribes," he said. "It's not just junior staff, people do bring in reinforcements

in anticipation of those because they do come with some frequency."

Biden is well aware that he is prone to losing his temper, sometimes blaming it on his Irish roots. Thompson believes he has built up a loyal coterie of long-serving staff despite this because some of these people "made the calculation that his virtues outweigh his faults".

There was a glimpse of the profanity Biden saves for private moments when he was caught on a "hot mic" in January last year calling Peter Doocy, a reporter with Fox News, a "stupid son of a bitch".

NBC News has reported how international allies can be on the receiving end. In a phone call in June last year with President Zelensky to set out the latest \$1 billion of US funding, Biden "lost his temper" when the Ukrainian president "started listing all the additional help he needed and wasn't getting". Biden was heard to say in a raised voice that the American people were being generous, his administration was working hard to help Ukraine and Zelensky could show more gratitude.

"It's the worst kept secret in Washington that Joe does have a temper," said Chris Whipple, author of *The Fight of His Life: Inside Joe Biden's White House*. But both authors rejected suggestions Biden's temper was noticeably worsening with age, pointing to examples of outbursts throughout his career.

In *Lucky*, the story of Biden's 2020 campaign told by Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes, Biden's moods are blamed for slow and poor decision-making: "Biden's temper, and his willingness to unleash it in small group settings, was one reason the people closest to him often avoided pushing him too hard to change his ways or take a particular course of action," they wrote. "Meetings often ended with no clear outcome."

Some Republicans seized on the revelations to suggest the White House promoted them to improve the president's image. Donald Trump Jr tweeted: "That story was so obviously placed & written to make it sound like Biden isn't suffering from late stage dementia."

'Chinese agent' think tank director goes on the run

Will Pavia New York

A director of a Washington think tank has gone on the run after he was charged with acting as an unregistered agent of China by seeking to recruit one of Donald Trump's advisers to promote policies favourable to the country, prosecutors in New York have said.

Gal Luft, 57, an American and Israeli citizen and the co-director of the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, was arrested in Cyprus in February on eight charges set out in a sealed indictment now made public, including making false statements to federal agents.

Luft, who fled after being released on

bail during extradition proceedings, has denied the charges and accused prosecutors of seeking to "bury" him after he offered damaging information about the Biden family in a video he released last week to the New York Post.

The indictment alleges that Luft agreed to work on behalf of a former official of the Hong Kong government, who was the head of a group called CEFC, based in Hong Kong and Virginia. Luft agreed, among other things, "to recruit and educate" a senior figure in Washington, who would then make statements "in the interest of China".

Luft said he had fled because he did not believe he would receive a fair trial.

World



Seismic hotspot Lava erupted from a fissure on Mount Fagradalsfjall, near Reykjavik, after intense earthquake activity. Icelandic officials reported no threat to life

Meteor ‘theft’ threatens to blow US defence deal to smithereens

Papua New Guinea

Richard Lloyd Parry Port Moresby

The government of Papua New Guinea is under pressure to abandon a security agreement with the US after an American research team working off its coast “stole” fragments of a mysterious interstellar meteor from the sea bed.

The leader of the opposition, Joseph Lelang, is demanding that a team led by the Harvard University astrophysicist Professor Avi Loeb return the pieces of the meteor that plunged into the sea in 2014 off the remote Manus Island.

In a statement to be made today, and obtained by The Times, he says that the incident undermines trust in Americans. It comes at a time when the US is trying to strengthen its security links with the country to counter the growing influence of China in the Pacific.

“What the US citizens were doing was illegal from the start, including stealing the artefacts from our shores,” said Lelang. He called for Papua New

Guinea (PNG) to abandon the Defence Co-operation Agreement, signed in May in Port Moresby by Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, if the US “fail to heed our call and protests”.

“How can we trust the United States if they treat us like this?” he asked. “If the United States government does not do anything then terminate the [security] agreement.”

He added: “The ink has not yet dried and already the US citizens are disrespecting our people, our country and constitution... We expect nothing less than the return of what was stolen from us and for those thieves to be held accountable.”

Loeb announced last month that his team had recovered fragments of IM1, a meteor that he believes could be the remnants of a spacecraft created by an alien civilisation. He is analysing 50 tiny metallic beads, or “spherules”, believed to be from the meteor. Even if they turn out not to be the remains of an alien space craft — a theory that



many other scientists doubt — they represent the first material believed to come from outside Earth’s solar system. But PNG’s National Research Agency, which licenses foreign researchers, accuses the scientists of sidestepping the procedures. The members of the team applied for, but never received, a Marine Science Research permit. They entered the country on business visas, not the kind reserved for scientists.

According to Rob McCallum, an ocean explorer and the leader of the expedition, approval was received from

the PNG cabinet, although who gave this has not been made clear. Two cabinet members have said they know of no such discussion.

Stanis Hulahau, the chief migration officer, said that the scientists could face criminal charges for removing “rare objects” without notifying the state authorities.

The row comes at an awkward time for the US and PNG governments, which are facing opposition to the security deal. It lays the basis for future defence deals between the two countries, which would give the US “unimpeded access” to military bases, including one in Manus, and would exempt US personnel from criminal prosecution and taxes in PNG.

It also opens the way for US aircraft, including spy planes, to land in PNG and for the “staging and deploying of forces and materiel”. It comes in response to Chinese military threats against Taiwan, and the seizure of islands in the South China Sea.

Hong Kong police raid activist’s family home

Hong Kong

Catherine Philp

Diplomatic Correspondent

Hong Kong police have raided the family home of Nathan Law, the exiled pro-democracy activist, and taken his parents and brother in for questioning as a campaign against alleged “fugitives” continues.

The pro-Chinese authorities issued a HK\$1 million (£100,000) bounty last week for information leading to the capture of Law and seven others accused of breaking the territory’s draconian national security law.

Law, 29, is one of three democracy activists who settled in Britain after fleeing Hong Kong to avoid arrests under the law that prohibited dissent against China after months of pro-democracy protests.

Officers from the National Security Department (NSD) brought in Law’s parents and elder brother for questioning. Police threatened to formalise their questioning as arrests. A spokesman said the three were “suspected of assisting persons wanted by police to continue commit acts and engage in activities that endanger national security”.

Law said: “I can firmly declare that the involved parties have no financial connection with me, and my work is totally unrelated to them. The idea of ‘getting assistance from them’ is completely absurd.”

The authorities announced warrants last week and offered bounties on the eight activists now based abroad, accusing them of subversion, foreign collusion and other crimes. The eight activists are split between Britain, the US and Australia, all of which have



Nathan Law is one of three activists who settled in Britain after fleeing Hong Kong

condemned an intimidation tactic by the former British territory.

Law and the two other British-based activists, Christopher Mung and Finn Lau, expressed concern that the authorities might target their families to pressure them or force them to return. Law said in 2020 that he was no longer in contact with his family.

James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, vowed to do everything needed to ensure their safety, prompting Beijing to accuse Britain of sheltering terrorists.

Law, granted asylum in Britain in 2021, said after the bounties were announced that Hong Kong abused the concept of national security to suppress dissident voices. Lau expressed fears the bounty could incentivise their abduction by agents working for Beijing.

China has previously kidnapped Uighur activists overseas and returned them to the country for incarceration.

Beijing imposed the national security law on Hong Kong in 2020 after months of sometimes violent pro-democracy protests, prompting western countries to cancel extradition treaties.

The action was called outrageous by Alicia Kearns, chairwoman of the Commons foreign affairs select committee. “Clearly an attempt to lure Nathan Law to return to Hong Kong so he can be silenced in Hong Kong prisons,” she tweeted. “The UK should have called in the CPP Ambassador last week when a bounty was put on Nathan’s head.”

Fresh fears over China’s expansion in South Pacific

Solomon Islands

Bernard Lagan Sydney

The leaders of China and the Solomon Islands have pledged to expand their security co-operation, boosting a relationship that has created alarm over Beijing’s growing presence in the South Pacific.

A meeting in Beijing on Monday between the islands’ prime minister, Manasseh Sogavare, President Xi and Li Qiang, the Chinese prime minister, prompted Australia to demand that the

islands and China immediately make their new agreements public.

“Solomon Islands and China should provide transparency of their intentions to Australia and the region... so the Pacific family can collectively consider the implications for our shared security,” a spokesman for Australia’s foreign minister, Penny Wong, said.

The Solomon Islands, a nation of about 700,000, 1,200 miles northeast of Australia, is at the forefront of Beijing’s campaign to expand its presence and

influence in the South Pacific. Sogavare’s government switched official recognition in 2019 to Beijing from Taiwan, the island democracy claimed by China as part of its territory.

“Solomon Islands, sir, has a lot to learn from China’s development experience,” Sogavare told Li during a formal welcome on Monday.

Describing the countries as “trustworthy friends”, Xi said ties between the two have set a “good example of solidarity and co-operation” between countries of different sizes and between

developing nations. The islands signed a secret security agreement with Beijing in March last year that, according to a leaked draft, offered Chinese military forces access to the South Pacific nation, alarming Australia and the US, which have since increased their aid efforts within the Solomons. In the fresh agreements signed on Monday, the leaders agreed to a deal on police co-operation. The pact was among nine new deals including an agreement on a “Sports Technical Assistance Project” for this year’s Pacific Games.

Conservative rival dominates Sánchez in Spanish TV debate

Spain

David Sharrock Madrid

The only debate that will take place between the leaders of Spain's two biggest political parties before the general election ended in a victory for the conservative leader of the opposition.

Pedro Sánchez, the Socialist prime minister, and his rival Alberto Núñez Feijóo, leader of the conservative Popular Party, debated for an hour and 40 minutes on television. Yesterday not

one newspaper or media outlet across the political spectrum gave Sánchez a positive review of his performance.

El País, a daily that supports the Socialists, described it as a "disastrous night" for Sánchez, saying that he was "generally uncomfortable". The columnist Carlos Cue wrote: "Sánchez at no time seemed to be the [prime minister], but rather the aspirant" who was "overwhelmed by a Feijóo completely different to the one that had been seen for months in the Senate, where he barely

managed to get the measure of Sanchez in several exchanges."

El Diario, a left-leaning website, said Feijóo appeared "more forceful" than his rival. "Feijóo managed to intimidate a restless Sánchez," agreed *El Confidencial*, a centrist online newspaper.

Polls show the conservatives winning on July 23, but falling short of a majority and relying on the far-right Vox Party to form a government. Sánchez called the snap election after bad results in May's regional and municipal elections

— gambling on a strategy that portrays the choice facing Spain as between him or a return to Franco-era politics.

But Sánchez will also require the support of minor parties including communists and regional parties seeking independence to achieve victory.

Both leaders tried to portray the other as a prisoner of extremists. In an attempt to sway Vox voters and disenchanted socialist supporters, Feijóo said: "I will not be a [prime minister] who lies." He promised "a political

change" if he can earn enough votes to govern alone.

Sánchez defended his "equality politics" and warned what a government involving Vox would mean, saying: "What is at stake is whether Spain continues advancing as it has done during these last 40 years or you place us, Mr Feijóo, in a sinister time tunnel in which who knows where we will end up."

Sánchez is normally regarded as an engaging speaker, while Feijóo has a tendency to put his foot in his mouth.

Reprise for 'colonialist' Bismarck

Germany

David Crossland Berlin

He was the Iron Chancellor who forged a nation but according to critics cast a dark colonialist shadow over Germany's history.

However, a 34m (112ft) statue of Otto von Bismarck in Hamburg has won a reprieve after the city rejected proposals to "disrupt" the monument with art installations aimed at highlighting his role in imperial expansion. A judging panel said none of eight short-listed designs was practical.

The Bismarck monument, unveiled in 1906, has been restored in a three-year refurbishment costing about €9 million, without any commentary added on his part in colonialism. Bismarck united Germany under Prussian rule and it took part in the "scramble for Africa", building the 19th century's third biggest empire, after Britain and France. Hamburg merchants funded the statue in gratitude for his decision to place their trading posts in Africa and elsewhere under the Reich's protection.

The chancellor's legacy has come under renewed criticism since the Black Lives Matter movement emerged and his monument has been vandalised, echoing protests in Britain over statues of slave traders.

Hamburg's centre-left government invited ideas for an "artistic intervention". But Christina Weiss, who chaired the judging panel said the shortlisted ideas "would have been immensely hard to realise".

Hamburg's conservative opposition criticised the contest that cost €27,000. "The effort of a jury to decolonise Hamburg" was a "waste of taxpayers' money", said Dennis Thering, chairman of the Christian Democratic Union group in the Hamburg assembly.



Skid row The Megavalanche bike race in Alpe d'Huez, in the French Alps, descends 8,500ft over a winding 12-mile route

New twist in missing Vatican girl case

Italy

Tom Kington Rome

The disappearance of a Rome teenager 40 years ago, for which the mafia, papal officials and even terrorists have been blamed, has taken a further twist as leaked Vatican documents cast suspicion on the girl's uncle.

Emanuela Orlandi, a daughter of a Vatican employee, vanished aged 15 on her way home from a music lesson in 1983, prompting decades of investigations and theories, which were analysed last year in a Netflix documentary, *Vatican Girl: The Disappearance of Emanuela Orlandi*.

Wild claims have included that she was snatched by a mafia gang that was

owed money by priests, killed to cover up sex abuse at the Vatican or kidnapped by terrorists trying to win the release of Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk jailed for trying to assassinate Pope John Paul II in 1981.

The newly leaked documents cast suspicion on a figure closer to home: Emanuela's uncle, Mario Meneguzzi, who has since died. Among them is a letter written three months after Emanuela's disappearance by Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican cardinal secretary of state, to a priest who acted as a spiritual adviser to the Orlandi family.

Casaroli asks the priest to confirm a story that he had heard about Meneguzzi sexually abusing Emanuela's older sister, Natalina. The priest wrote:

"Yes, it's true. Natalina was subject to unhealthy attention from the uncle. She was terrified when she told me. She was told to keep it quiet otherwise she would have lost her job at the parliament where Meneguzzi, who

managed the café, had got her work."

La7, the Italian television channel that published the letter, pointed out that an artist's sketch of a man seen picking up Emanuela in a car the day she vanished strongly re-

Emanuela Orlandi had been at a music lesson

sembled Meneguzzi. Meneguzzi had said that he received anonymous phone calls from people claiming to have kidnapped Emanuela, which helped to fuel conspiracy theories about her disappearance.

Emanuela's brother, Pietro Orlandi, condemned what he called "mud slinging" by the Italian media. "I am angry, furious," said Orlandi, who has long claimed that there was Vatican involvement in his sister's fate. At a press conference yesterday, Natalina Orlandi said her uncle had made "verbal advances"

but never physically abused her, while Pietro said it had been proven that Meneguzzi was not in Rome on the day Emanuela vanished.

The documents were part of a batch handed to magistrates by Alessandro Diddi, a Vatican prosecutor who said he was keen to get to the bottom of the mystery after years of Vatican reticence.

Pietro Orlandi said the leaking of the letter was a "dirty trick", adding: "I don't know who, but someone in the Vatican did this because they want to shift the attention from inside the Vatican to outside."

Laura Sgro, the family's lawyer, said police had investigated Meneguzzi years ago but found no proof he was involved.



World

Bone-fide fantastic beasts go on sale

United States

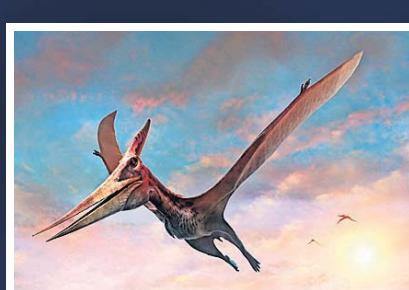
Will Pavia New York

During its lifetime 83 million years ago, the pteranodon specimen now referred to as Horus was an enormous flying reptile that went gliding over the sea that stretched between the Rockies and the Appalachian mountains, hunting for fish.

Its skeleton now soars on bony wings that span 20ft over the third floor of a gallery of Sotheby's in Manhattan, where it is expected to sell for up to \$6 million this month.

The price tag reflects its great rarity. "The bones are very fragile, and they are hollow, which allowed it to fly, so when they get fossilised they are almost paper thin," said Cassandra Hatton, a specialist at the auction house in sales related to science, standing beneath the winged skeleton as it hung from the ceiling. "It's rare to find a specimen of this size and quality of preservation."

The skeleton has a huge mouth, with a sharp, pointed beak and an extraordinary curving crest on its head that it may have used to steer in flight. Its neck is long and leads to a



The pteranodon bones found in Kansas and an artist's impression of how it would have looked 83 million years ago. It is expected to fetch up to \$6 million at the Sotheby's sale

considered in the trade to be relatively complete are those in which it is possible to infer nearly the entire skeleton from the bones that are found.

In the case of the pteranodon "one of the wings is complete", Hatton said. The left wing was then 3D-printed. The same goes for parts of the spine and the rib cage. The magnificent crest is inferred from what is known of the species.

The plesiosaur skeleton may be the most complete specimen ever found, Hatton said. It is nicknamed "Nessie" because the species was thought to be the inspiration for the Loch Ness monster, even though "the lake bed of Loch Ness was formed far, far after this creature died".

Both skeletons showed the potential for prehistoric creatures to feed into mythology. Pteranodons, when they were first discovered, looked rather like dragons, Hatton said. Both made their New York debut before a host of photographers. "Crazy right?" said one, nodding at the plesiosaur. "Imagine being in the woods and coming across this thing. Come on!"

Hatton said that the plesiosaur must have lived in a river, hunting fish. Pointing at its head, which was about the size and shape of a rugby ball but with a gaping jaw filled with small pointy teeth, she said: "It wouldn't swallow you whole but it could rip your calf off."

She expected that both specimens would either become part of a museum collection or be loaned to one by the buyer.

Collectors of such pieces are "people who have never lost their childlike wonder about the world", she said. When "I go into their homes, or their corporate offices" with a new skeleton, "they are jumping up and down with excitement".

rib cage that is roughly the size and shape of a large watermelon, from which branch the enormous, graceful wings. At the end of its legs are enormous feet with long, splayed toes that may have been joined by webbing.

It will go on sale alongside a plesiosaur that was found in Gloucestershire in the early Nineties and is estimated to be worth up to \$800,000. The skeleton of this aquatic creature, with a long snaking neck and giant bony flippers, was hung in an adjoining gallery, lit with five spotlights as if it were a Modigliani sculpture.

The pteranodon was found in a chalk outcrop on the Smoky Hill River, in northwest Kansas, land that was by the seaside during the late cretaceous period. The site has yielded the fossils of prehistoric fish

and of pterosaurs, a close relative of dinosaurs and an early pioneer of powered flight. The 20ft wingspan of this one, found in 2002, means it was almost certainly a male, though it is hard to be completely sure without the creature's soft tissue, Hatton said. "They lived in roosts," she said. The females, which were smaller, lived together in large harems, she said.

Hatton declined to disclose the seller, but she said meticulous checks had been performed on the paperwork to determine its provenance and that it was a single specimen and not a composite of several, which would command a lower price.

"I want to see the GPS of where it was found. I want the land deed," she said. She also asks for a "site map", showing where each piece of the fossil was found and that they are from a single pterosaur. Skeletons

Crocodile attacks prompt call for cull

Australia

Bernard Lagan Sydney

Crocodiles could be culled for the first time in half a century after a series of attacks on tourists in Australia's remote Northern Territory.

Natasha Fyles, the chief minister of the territory, which is almost six times bigger than the UK, said there had been a steep increase in the crocodile population since culling was halted in 1971, with numbers rising from about 3,000 to an estimated 100,000.

"I think it's time for us to consider: do we need to go back to culling, considering that significant increase in the crocodile population and the impact it's having not only on tourism and visitors, but locals," Fyles said.

Rangers tracked down and killed an 8ft male saltwater crocodile that attacked a 67-year-old man swimming at Wangi Falls, a tourist spot less than 50 miles from Darwin. The swimming area will remain closed until surveys confirm there are no other crocodiles. Fyles described Monday's attack as "extremely scary", adding: "I think everyone in

the territory has stories where crocodiles have been more aggressive ... and when you have a bigger crocodile population, there is more chance that they will interact with humans."

Taneka Starr, a detective from Tasmania who was on holiday with her family, said that about 80 people were swimming at Wangi Falls when the attack happened. "He [the victim] saw the croc and warned another man which diverted the croc back to him," Starr said. "People on the viewing platform were screaming at us to get out of the water. [It was] terrifying."

"We formed a circle to make sure we all made it out of the water safely as a group, especially the children. We then saw that a man had suffered injuries to his arm and together my sisters and I provided first aid."

In May a publcan from north Queensland, Kevin Darmody, 65, was mauled to death by two crocodiles while fishing from a river bank.

The last fatal crocodile attack in the Northern Territory was in 2018, though there have been a series of maulings that some crocodile experts have attributed to the animals pushing into the outskirts of Darwin.

Manson cult murderer freed after 53 years

Keiran Southern Los Angeles

A follower of Charles Manson has walked free from prison in California after serving 53 years of a life sentence for her part in a double murder.

Leslie Van Houten, 73, was 19 when she and other members of the so-called Manson family broke into the home of Leno LaBianca and his wife, Rosemary, in Los Angeles on August 10, 1969. The LaBiancas were stabbed dozens of times. Members of the Manson cult had murdered the actress Sharon Tate the previous night.

Van Houten was released to "parole supervision", the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation said.

Gavin Newsom, the state's governor, had announced that he would not fight a state appeals court ruling that Van Houten should be granted parole. The parole board said that Van Houten, who originally faced a death sentence, had "shown extraordinary rehabilitative efforts".

Van Houten's supporters have long argued that at the time of the killings she was under the spell of Manson, who died aged 83 in 2017.

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Business

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RBS debt chaser used voice-changing software to mimic customers

James Hurley

A Royal Bank of Scotland supplier used voice-changing software to steal the personal information of bank customers and help the lender chase debts, the UK's data regulator found.

Michael Isaacs routinely contacted organisations such as GP surgeries, utility companies and councils pretending to be RBS customers so that he could record personal information to

pass to the lender, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) said.

Isaacs, 79, is a director of Datasearch Services (DSS), which was used by RBS to locate people who owed money to the bank and to determine their assets and ability to repay the debts.

The commissioner's office said it had received a complaint from the bank in February 2016 "with concerns about the contents of reports it had received from DSS". The regulator found that

Isaacs "would use voice-changing software to impersonate other people and to cover his tracks" after passing security questions. "Isaacs would then record personal information such as monthly direct debits, bank account details and outstanding mortgages to build up an in-depth profile of a person for RBS. This level of detail was wholly outside of the remit and agreement with RBS," the commissioner said.

The bank indicated that, in agree-

ment with the regulator, it had not notified any of the affected customers and that the commissioner was comfortable with the lender's conduct.

Banks and other financial firms are supposed to be careful about ensuring that tracing agents do not engage in illegal or unethical practices on their behalf.

The regulator has long had concerns about tracing agents' operations and told The Times that it was "looking into

the methods and techniques used by tracing agents to collect and use people's personal information".

In 2018 Woodgate and Clark, an insurance firm, and two senior figures connected with the company, were given record fines for using private detectives to illegally obtain the private banking records of a businessman.

It is feared that similar abuses have often gone unpunished. The regulator **Continued on page 31**

CMA calls truce with Microsoft

Case halted after US judge backs Activision deal

Callum Jones, Katie Prescott

A truce has been declared in court proceedings between Microsoft and the UK's competition watchdog as they attempt to reach an agreement over the software giant's \$69 billion takeover of Activision Blizzard.

The surprise pause was announced after a federal judge in the United States ruled that Microsoft could push ahead with the Activision deal, leaving Britain as the last remaining market where it cannot proceed.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) decided in April to block the deal and a date was set for Microsoft to challenge it at the Competition Appeals Tribunal at the end of this month. At the time Brad Smith, Microsoft's president, described the CMA's decision as an "outlier" and said it made the UK a worse place to do business after the EU approved the deal, with some conditions in place.

Yesterday, however, the CMA announced a stay in the proceedings after a judge in San Francisco rejected a request from America's top antitrust watchdog to impose a preliminary injunction on the Activision deal. Microsoft expressed the hope that "other jurisdictions" would work with it in a "timely" fashion following the decision.

A spokeswoman for the CMA said yesterday: "We stand ready to consider any proposals from Microsoft to restructure the transaction in a way that would address the concerns set out in our final report."

The US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) had argued that the takeover

threatened to substantially reduce competition and potentially restrict access to games such as Activision's blockbuster *Call of Duty* franchise. However, Judge Jacqueline Scott Corley ruled: "To the contrary, the record evidence points to more consumer access to *Call of Duty* and other Activision content. The motion for a preliminary injunction is therefore denied."

Injunctions are generally issued when a judge believes the plaintiff is likely to prevail in the case. After losing a similar injunction request on a separate acquisition this year, the FTC abandoned its effort to stop a deal by the Facebook owner, Meta Platforms.

During its legal showdown with the FTC, Microsoft pushed back against claims by Sony, which owns PlayStation, the main rival to Microsoft's Xbox console, that it could make *Call of Duty* exclusive to Xbox or lessen the game's popularity on PlayStation by stealth, for example by weakening its quality on the console.

Shares in Activision closed up 10 per cent, or \$8.29, at \$90.99 in New York last night while Microsoft stock, which initially slipped, ended 0.2 per cent, or 64 cents, higher at \$324.47.

In an email to staff Bobby Kotick, chief executive of Activision, said: "We stand ready to work with UK regulators to address any remaining concerns so our merger can quickly close."

The FTC said it was "disappointed in this outcome given the clear threat this merger poses to open competition in cloud gaming, subscription services and consoles". It pledged to announce its next step in the coming days.



Sosandar looks good in black

Sosandar, the British fashion brand worn by celebrities including Fearne Cotton, has achieved its first year of profit, making £1.6 million before tax.

Soaring wages push pound to 15-month high against dollar

Callum Jones
US Business Correspondent

Sterling hit a 15-month peak against the dollar yesterday as a record rise in wages bolstered expectations of higher interest rates for longer.

The pound rose as high as \$1.2913, its highest level since April last year. Up 0.6 per cent on the day, it has now risen 6.6 per cent against the greenback since the turn of the year.

The Office for National Statistics said that average pay increased by 7.3 per cent in the three months to May, ahead of expectations, in the latest indicator that inflation is providing stickier in Britain than in other leading economies. Sterling has become the best-performing major currency against the dollar this year, as traders bet that the Bank of England will raise rates higher than other central banks.

As of yesterday, markets were pricing in a 74 per cent chance of a 50 basis-point increase next month, according to futures data, up from 66 per cent before the ONS release.

While higher rates usually support currencies in the short term, analysts have cautioned that the pound may eventually weaken in the face of pressure on economic growth. Sterling's recent rise has also been supported by a decline in the dollar against leading currencies, to a two-month low, after officials at the Federal Reserve indicated that the central bank may be nearing the end of its tightening cycle.

The Fed is expected by traders to raise rates by 25 basis points at its next policy meeting this month. Wall Street will closely scrutinise today's US consumer price index for June as investors attempt to gauge the next steps of policymakers. Economists expect a significant moderation in the headline reading, to an annual rate of about 3.1 per cent, down from 4 per cent in May.

The FTSE 100 closed marginally higher, up 0.12 per cent, or 8.73 points, at **Continued on page 32**

Business

Need to know

1 Rishi Sunak has backed plans to lift a ban on building homes on tens of thousands of properties. Natural England, the environment watchdog, has forced more than 70 councils to block developments of up to 120,000 new homes because of concerns about the potential additional pollution of local rivers. **Page 2**

2 Royal Mail workers have voted overwhelmingly to accept a deal to end a long-running dispute over pay, jobs and conditions. It included a 10 per cent salary increase and a one-off lump sum of £500. **Page 2**

3 Nationwide, Britain's biggest building society, has warned that rising mortgage rates are near a "tipping point" beyond which switching to an interest-only deal will not soften the blow for households. **Page 16**

4 A temporary truce has been declared in court proceedings between Microsoft and the UK's competition watchdog as they attempt to reach an agreement over the software company's \$69 billion takeover of Activision Blizzard. A federal judge in the United States has approved the deal, leaving Britain as the last remaining market where it cannot proceed. **Page 29**

5 A former Royal Bank of Scotland supplier used voice changing software to steal personal information of bank customers to help the lender chase debts, the UK's data regulator found. **Page 29**

6 Sterling hit a 15-month peak against the dollar as a record rise in wages bolstered expectations of higher interest rates for longer. UK wages rose 7.3 per cent in the three months to May. Economists had forecast a dip to 7.1 per cent from 7.2 per cent last month. **Pages 29, 32**

7 Plans to use hydrogen for heating and cooking in up to 2,000 homes in Cheshire have been scrapped after opposition from residents. Cadent, the gas network company, and British Gas, the household energy supplier, hoped to convert part of Whitby in Ellesmere Port into a world-first "hydrogen village".

8 Centrica has finalised an \$8 billion agreement to buy liquefied natural gas from a new floating production facility in the Gulf of Mexico. The British Gas owner will buy about 14 LNG cargos per year from Delfin Midstream's deepwater port. The million tonnes would be enough to heat 5 per cent of UK homes.

9 The head of Reuters news agency has said she would be "astonished" if artificial intelligence were not being used to report some news stories, such as financial results, by the end of the year. Sue Brooks said it was vital that there was "always a human in the loop" to ensure total accuracy. **Page 32**

10 Tens of thousands of so-called "zombie" companies will fall prey to rising interest rates and inflation in the coming months, according to the boss of Begbies Traynor, the insolvency specialist. **Page 37**

'Hydrogen village' plan snuffed out by residents

Emily Gosden Energy Editor

Plans to use hydrogen for heating and cooking in up to 2,000 homes in Cheshire have been scrapped after opposition from residents.

Cadent, the gas network company, and British Gas, the household energy supplier, hoped to convert part of Whitby in Ellesmere Port into a world-first "hydrogen village" trial as they attempt to prove that the clean-burning fuel can be used as a replacement for planet-warming natural gas.

Whitby was one of two proposed locations for the trial, along with a Northern Gas Networks (NGN) project in Redcar, North Yorkshire. Lord Calanan, the energy minister, said: "After listening to the views of residents, it's clear that there is no strong local support." He said that "discussions with NGN re Redcar are ongoing" and the next steps would be announced shortly.

The scrapping of the Whitby trial is the latest setback for proponents of hydrogen for home heating amid signs that the government is cooling on the idea. Grant Shapps, the energy security secretary, told Politico last month that he had come into the role thinking that "one day hydrogen will fuel homes" but now believed it was "unlikely to be the way forward", although the government still planned to carry out trials.

In addition to the proposed Redcar hydrogen village trial, the gas network company SGN is planning a smaller trial to supply green hydrogen to up to 300 homes in Fife in Scotland, a project that has already suffered delays.

More than 80 per cent of British homes use boilers that burn natural gas, causing climate change. Decarbonising home heating is crucial to achieving Britain's net zero goals but the best way to do it is the subject of fierce debate.

Proponents of hydrogen for home heating include the gas network companies that hope to convert their existing pipelines to carry hydrogen, secur-

ing the future of their assets. Cadent is Britain's biggest gas distribution pipeline operator, while its partner British Gas is Britain's biggest household energy supplier and has a significant boiler servicing and repair business.

Critics say that heat pumps powered by renewable electricity offer a much more efficient solution to decarbonising home heating and the Climate Change Committee has warned that it would be "impractical" to produce enough hydrogen to use in every home.

Opponents of the Whitby trial had raised concerns about the safety of using hydrogen. There was also anger at the companies' initial proposals to cut off the natural gas supplies to all 2,000 homes in the proposed trial area as they converted the existing pipelines for hydrogen, offering heat pumps, electric boilers or panel radiators to those who did not want to take part.

In March the companies said those households that did not want to take part would retain gas boilers and it would lay a new pipe network to supply them while continuing to convert the existing network to carry hydrogen.

A spokesman for Cadent said: "We believe strongly in the role that hydrogen can play alongside other technologies and energy sources in reaching net zero. While Whitby won't be the location for the trial, the information we have gained over the last 12 months will still play an invaluable role in shaping how the UK heats its homes and businesses in the future."

Juliet Phillips, senior policy adviser at E3G, the climate change think tank, said: "Hydrogen will have an important role to play in decarbonising certain sectors of the economy, but there is increasing consensus that its deployment for domestic heat represents an inefficient use of this green fuel."

A spokesman for NGN said: "We continue to work closely with the government on our demonstration of hydrogen for home heating."



Centrica agrees \$8bn deal to buy gas from US

Centrica has finalised an \$8 billion agreement to purchase liquefied natural gas from a new floating production facility in the Gulf of Mexico (Emily Gosden writes).

The British Gas owner will buy about 14 LNG cargos per year from Delfin Midstream's deepwater port, 40 nautical miles off the coast of Louisiana.

The million tonnes of LNG per year would be enough to heat 5 per cent of UK homes and Centrica said it intended to bring the gas to Britain, although it has the rights to sell it globally.

The sale and purchase agreement with Delfin follows a heads of agreement signed in August last year, at which stage the much-delayed project was expected to take a final investment decision later that year and start exporting in 2026. Delfin is working on a final investment decision and no gas is due to be exported until 2027.

Centrica said that as a foundation customer

of the project, its agreement "underpins investment in the next wave of incremental LNG supply from the US".

Chris O'Shea, the Centrica chief executive, said: "Natural gas is an essential transition fuel in the move to net zero and securing international agreements such as this are vital to the UK's energy security."

Dudley Poston, chief executive of Delfin, said: "We continue to move towards a final investment decision and bring this important project forward, becoming a partner to countries like the UK as it continues to make progress bolstering national energy security and driving down prices with clean, reliable LNG."

Centrica is a FTSE 100 energy group that posted record adjusted profits of £3.3 billion last year. It is best known for running Britain's biggest household energy supplier, British Gas, which has about 7.5 million customers. It also has a North Sea gas business, operates

IN THE PIPELINE



the Rough gas storage site, has a 20 per cent stake in Britain's nuclear plants and runs a significant energy marketing and trading business.

Supplies of LNG — gas chilled to liquid form for transport by tanker — have become increasingly important over the past year after Russia curtailed pipeline gas supplies to Europe in retaliation for western sanctions imposed following its invasion of Ukraine. Gas prices surged to all-time highs of more

Women's lawyers target Odey funds

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The City regulator has been urged to ensure that Odey Asset Management retains assets in the event that the hedge fund has to cover any redress to women who allege they were sexually assaulted by the firm's founder.

Jill Greenfield, a lawyer representing two women who claim they were assaulted by Crispin Odey, has written to the Financial Conduct Authority to ask the watchdog to ringfence funds that might be needed if litigation results in damages being awarded.

The women instructed Greenfield to pursue civil claims against Odey, 64, and his firm. Her request to the FCA, first reported by the Financial Times, is a further twist in the turmoil around the tycoon and the firm he founded.

The FCA confirmed it had received Greenfield's letter and would respond.

Odey and his hedge fund group became embroiled in controversy last month after a string of women accused the financier of misconduct.

Odey has denied the allegations. But the Mayfair-based group, which he set up in 1991, took the extraordinary step of ousting him in an attempt to contain the fallout from the scandal.

However, this failed to stop banks, which provided prime broking services to the firm, and clients from abandoning the hedge fund.

This has severely disrupted the business, which is breaking itself up after its ability to function was impaired by the exodus. The break-up involves transferring funds, as well as the managers who run the portfolios, to rival firms.

City minister defends reform

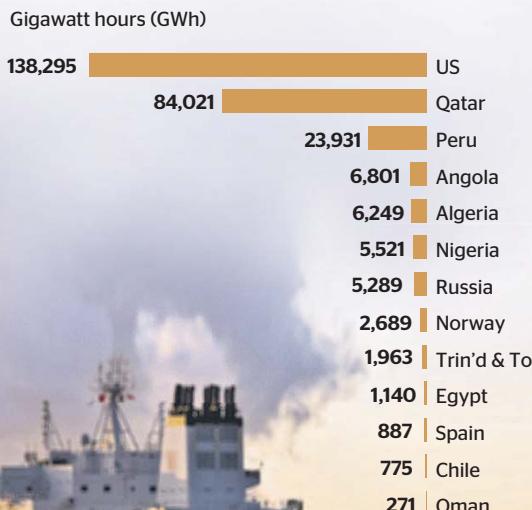
Ben Martin Banking Editor

The City minister has insisted the government is not on a "deregulatory tear" a day after the Treasury unveiled another set of reforms designed to boost Britain's financial services industry and bolster the wider economy.

Andrew Griffith, told The Times: "I don't think we're putting too much risk in the system." He said the government was "resetting the pendulum in a very central position" to strike "a better balance" between financial stability and high-quality regulation.

"These are balanced, thoughtful reviews that are being consulted on and worked with the industry," he said.

The government is revamping rules

UK gas production, imports and exports**Breakdown of LNG imports by country**

than ten times usual levels last summer, although they have now receded closer to pre-crisis levels.

Last year Britain's LNG imports rose by 74 per cent to a record high, which was partly driven by cargos being unloaded at UK LNG terminals and then transported by pipeline to Europe, which had insufficient import terminals of its own to meet demand.

America provided about half of Britain's LNG, overtaking Qatar, which had been

Britain's biggest supplier for the previous 13 years.

Centrica said that it was "investing heavily in future-proof the UK's energy supply and address one of the underlying causes of the energy crisis", highlighting its deal with Equinor last summer to increase the volumes of pipeline gas it imports from Norway.

At the end of last month Centrica announced that it

Chris O'Shea says natural gas is vital for the UK to achieve energy security



was almost doubling the capacity of the Rough gas storage facility, which it partially reopened last October.

Centrica is seeking to emphasise its role in delivering energy security as it braces for a political row when it is expected to report record half-year profits for its British Gas supply business later this month.

on the City partly in an effort to defend London's status as a financial hub, which is threatened by competition from rivals including New York and Amsterdam.

Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, used his first speech at the annual Mansion House dinner on Monday night to announce changes designed to unlock capital in pension funds and improve the international competitiveness of the London stock market.

Last December he set out his so-called Edinburgh reforms, aimed at cutting red tape in the City. The chancellor is also pushing ahead with a relaxation of insurance regulations, known as Solvency II, introduced when Britain was a member of the EU.

Some of the changes being introduced have led to warnings that rules are being loosened too far. Regulations in financial services were tightened after 2007-09 to reduce the risk of another crash.

tors they contract? These are all pertinent questions and the relative silence from RBS begs a further question: how widespread are these practices in our financial services sector?"

A spokeswoman for NatWest, RBS's owner, said: "Since bringing these potential breaches to the ICO's attention, we have fully co-operated with the investigation. We are pleased that this case has now been resolved."

In February Isaacs pleaded guilty to six charges of unlawfully obtaining personal data. Last month at Kingston-upon-Thames crown court, he was ordered to pay back £38,000 under a confiscation order after "benefiting from his criminal conduct". He was also fined £10,560 plus £15,000 court costs.

Isaacs and DSS could not be reached for comment.

Voice-change debt chaser

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

said it did not know how many customers were affected by Isaacs's activities but indicated that all 166 "trace reports" by him that it had seen contained unlawfully obtained personal data.

There is no suggestion RBS knew of Isaacs's actions before it reported him to the commissioner. However, the bank did not answer a series of questions, including when it first engaged Isaacs and how many customer files DSS handled.

William Wragg MP, co-chairman of the all party parliamentary group on fair business banking, said the ICO's "staggering" statement "raises more questions than it answers".

"How much illegally obtained data does RBS still hold? What due diligence are RBS carrying out on the investiga-

Bailey puts us all in a sticky situation

BUSINESS COMMENTARY Robert Lea

The governor of the Bank of England seems ever more intent in lodging himself up a gum tree. Speaking at the Mansion House this week Andrew Bailey confessed that inflation is proving to be "more sticky" than he had predicted because of the strength of the labour market. He indicated that galloping wage inflation is the single key metric for his monetary policy interest rate-setting committee.

Right on cue and providing a post-Mansion House hangover, ONS figures revealed that UK wages are rising at the fastest since records began at the start of this century and discounting the wild swings of the pandemic. The 7.3 per cent jump was above forecasts and contributing to the official rate of inflation at 8.7 per cent — perversely leaving the lucky recipients of such average wage rises still firmly out of pocket in real terms.

So to take the governor at his word — or at least his strong indication — that's another hike in the base rate nailed on in three weeks' time from the 5 per cent it was raised to last month.

Writing in these pages this week Simon French, the esteemed City economist, made the point that the governor is looking tin-eared to the impact in the real world of his fight against inflation, and that there may be merit in understanding why the Fed put a halt to its rate increases as there needs to be time to assess the natural lag in their effects on the economy.

In a dispatch from the real world yesterday, mortgage lenders quizzed by MPs gave an update on the impact of rate rises on the millions of householders whose fixed-rate deals end within the next 18 months.

Those coming off fixed rates in the first half of this year have seen their monthly payments rise by about £235 on average. That's £2,800 a year. With mortgage rates currently on offer at between 5.5 per cent and 6.5 per cent, MPs were told homeowners coming off a rate of 2.3 per cent would see an increase in monthly payments of £350. That's £4,200 a year. As the lady from the Skipton Building Society told them: "Over the next six months we expect to see more customers with financial stress."

The Australian idiom "like a possum up a gum tree" tells us that marsupials seeking refuge from predators may find the adhesive leaves of the eucalyptus a stickier situation. The governor appears intent on the gum tree gambit. As it happens possums have another means of avoiding conflict, that is to play dead. There are always lessons to be learnt from nature.

Flame goes out

Whitby in Cheshire, hitherto best known for being part of the sprawl of Ellesmere Port that is home to the much-diminished Vauxhall automotive factory, has foregone its shot at history to become the first community in the UK's great energy transition experiment to be fuelled

by hydrogen. The residents have said they don't want to.

This can be taken as a serious setback to the so-called hydrogen economy that many see as the future of a net zero Britain, or simply as a knockback for hydrogen as a domestic fuel, for after industry and transportation usage, we simply won't produce enough of it.

Either way this is not a good look for a country that has to embrace hydrogen as part of the net zero mix. If we want decarbonised energy-intensive industries like steel or chemicals, hydrogen is the only obvious solution. Ditto the heaviest goods vehicles, for which batteries will only provide a sub-optimal result.

In reality, the decision not to go ahead is the cry of a community on The Wirral that was mucked about in a botched demonstration project by Cadent, the energy company.

Not helping all this is Grant Shapps who is in his fourth different Cabinet job in less than a year. When he came into the newly created role of energy security secretary five months ago, he was of the opinion that hydrogen-heated homes were the future. He has now changed his mind. No substitute for clarity of policy and leadership.

Runway success

The long wait at Heathrow is finally coming to an end. Not in the departure lounges or on the tarmac or for fellow passengers to get their quart-sized carry-on luggage into the pint-pot overheads. But in the return to aviation normality.

The number of passengers going through Heathrow's terminals in the last two months is at 98 per cent of pre-pandemic levels. If it weren't for the slow return of Far Eastern routes impacted by the longtail of Covid-19 in China and combat in the airspace above Ukraine and Russia, Heathrow would be back at pre-pandemic par. Depending on which pessimistic forecasts we listened to, that is between one and two years earlier than expected.

The Heathrow recovery coincides with the end of the airport blathering on about how much more money it needs to charge passengers because of the expected shortfall in air travel. In its row with its regulator on the issue, it could be construed that Heathrow was being a little economic with the *actualité*. Perhaps best to say that it is just not very good at forecasting.

Demolished hopes

Blessed are the brickmakers, for they can show us the clay to economic recovery. Unfortunately, our top two producers, Ibstock and Forterra, are languishing close to all-time lows since their floats around eight years ago. We used to talk of building 300,000 homes a year. Last year we got to 215,000. This year? It could be as few as 130,000. An inconvenient home truth.

robert.lea@thetimes.co.uk

Business

Pay rises continue at record pace

Helen Cahill

UK wages rose at a record pace in the three months to May, increasing expectations that the Bank of England will increase interest rates further.

Average pay rose by a larger than expected 7.3 per cent, data from the Office for National Statistics showed. Economists had forecast a dip to 7.1 per cent from 7.2 per cent last month.

The ONS said that growth in wages was the same as last month, which was the fastest in nearly two years, and the joint highest since records began in 2001. In real terms, pay fell by 1.2 per cent in the three months to May thanks to inflation, which at 8.7 per cent is well above the Bank of England's target rate of 2 per cent.

The unemployment rate in the three months increased by 0.2 percentage points to 4 per cent, driven by people unemployed for up to 12 months. This was above the expectations of a reading of 3.8 per cent. The employment rate rose 0.2 percentage points to 76 per cent, higher than the previous quarter but lower than before the pandemic.

Darren Morgan, ONS director of economic statistics, said: "Total employment grew in the latest three months while the number of people actively looking for work also increased, both driven by men rejoining the labour market."

"Pay excluding bonuses has again risen at record levels in cash terms. Due to high inflation, however, the real value of weekly earnings are still falling, although now at its slowest rate since the end of 2021."

Andrew Bailey, the Bank governor, and Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, called for wage restraint in speeches at the annual Mansion House dinner on Monday, saying pay settlements made it harder to bring down inflation.

The government will decide later this month whether to increase public sector pay by about 6 per cent. Hunt said that the government would make "responsible decisions on public finances, including public sector pay".

The Bank has warned that inflation is taking longer to fall than it anticipated. Despite the fall in energy prices, which pushed inflation above 11 per cent last year, food inflation has remained high. This has added to pressure for higher wages to cope with the cost of living.

Bailey said in his speech that increases in wages and prices were "not consistent with the inflation target" and said food prices were likely to fall as



lower commodity prices fed through to supermarkets.

The labour market has defied the pressure from rising interest rates, with unemployment close to record lows and companies complaining a shortage of workers has helped to drive up wages.

The UK has suffered from worker shortages caused in part by Brexit and health problems forcing people out of the jobs market. This trend of falling labour force participation has begun to reverse as more students have begun looking for work in recent months.

The data showed job vacancies dropped by 85,000 in the April to June period to 1,034,000.

Hunt said yesterday: "Our jobs market is strong with unemployment low by historical standards. But we still have around one million job vacancies,

pushing up inflation even further. Our labour market reforms — including expanding free childcare next year — will help to build the high-wage, high-growth, low-inflation economy we all want to see."

Ashley Webb, an economist at Capital Economics, said: "The labour market became less tight in May and there are some signs of momentum in wage growth slowing a bit. But with wage growth still well above the levels consistent with the 2 per cent inflation target, this won't ease the Bank of England's inflation fears significantly."

Jane Gratton, head of people policy at the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "We remain concerned about the persistent tightness in the labour market, adding to the costs and difficulties facing businesses."

Sterling hits 15-month high

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

7,282.52. In New York last night, the S&P 500 closed up 0.7 per cent and the Dow Jones industrial average rose by 0.9 per cent.

Yields on ten-year UK government bonds — a key economic bellwether — rose last week above the peak reached last autumn, during the fallout from Liz Truss's mini-budget, to hit their highest levels since 2008. They were largely unmoved yesterday, at 4.6 per cent. Yields move inversely to bond prices.

In a note to clients this week, strategists at JPMorgan Chase cited Bank of England research that signalled that

inflation expectations among businesses remained "very high".

"We continue to adopt a very cautious approach to UK rate markets given we think terminal rate valuations are hard to anchor until we see clear signs that domestic-generated inflation is moderating and core inflation/wage data are consistently surprising to the downside," the strategists said.

Unexpectedly stubborn levels of inflation have prompted investors to re-evaluate their expectations for interest rates. Typical rates on two-year fixed mortgage deals are already at 6.66 per cent, the highest since August 2008, according to Moneyfacts.

AI will write news soon, Reuters claims

Katie Prescott

The head of Reuters has said she would be "astonished" if artificial intelligence were not being used to report some news stories, such as financial results, by the end of the year.

Speaking to The Times as the news agency introduced a slew of AI features to its services, Sue Brooks said it was vital that there was "always a human in the loop" to ensure total accuracy.

Admitting it was her "gut speaking" when she said AI would be writing some news within six months, she added: "But I would be astonished if not. We're experimenting the whole time. We're reviewing the whole time. We are talking about guidelines and guidance and oversight by editorial people and complete transparency for anything that does involve AI."

AI would create a "golden age" of news, she said "because it's freeing up brain power to be creative and putting

all these tools in your toolbox to start up to creating really magical experiences for readers."

Reuters news content will now have automated time-coded transcripts, translation of many languages into English and identification of public figures so that journalists can pinpoint what they need quickly. It will form part of the Reuters Connect service, which is used by newsrooms around the world with more than 600,000 videos, six livestreams and 23 million pictures made available from its journalists.

It already uses AI to translate some financial news into different languages which Brooks said "has taken two or three years to develop the models until we were satisfied that they were accurate enough".

"The one thing our 3,000 customers have in common is that what they need from us is speed," Brooks said.

The company has been using AI in some forms for a while, but this update

makes the rollout more widespread. "We've had some degree of facial recognition for a while and some degree of shot listing [detailling what happens in a video] and transcriptions," she said. "This is putting it against continuously rolling news so whereas previously it would take 24 hours for it to get processed, this is almost real time."

Founded in 1851 by Paul Julius Reuter in London, the news agency started using carrier pigeons to fly stock prices between Aachen and Brussels. It is one of the world's leading news organisations and operates under strict principles to safeguard the independence of its reporting.

In May Steve Hasker, chief executive of Thomson Reuters, the parent company of Reuters News, said it planned to spend about \$100 million a year on artificial intelligence and expects to see generative AI incorporated into its main products in the second half of this year.

Watchdog warns of market risks from unchecked tech

Katie Prescott
Technology Business Editor

The boss of the financial regulator has warned that artificial intelligence in the City could lead to "imbalances and risks that affect the integrity, price discovery, transparency and fairness of markets if unleashed unfettered".

Nikhil Rathi, chief executive of the Financial Conduct Authority, said the FCA was determined to see AI offer "opportunity" with the right checks and balances but cautioned that it could "affect our markets in ways and at a scale not seen before".

Rathi warned about the potential impact of misinformation, such as a market shock caused by a fake image of an explosion at the Pentagon, and automation, pointing to a doubling of intraday volatility compared with during the

2008 financial crisis. However, he lauded AI's potential to boost productivity and lower prices for consumers.

The FCA is grappling with the best way to deal with the AI boom, as many City companies are already integrating the technology into their systems. Professional services firms are looking at how it can perform basic tasks such as creating initial drafts of documents.

KPMG, one of the Big Four accountancy firms, announced a multibillion-dollar tie-up with Microsoft last night to expand its AI capabilities in audit, tax and advisory services. Bill Thomas, global chairman and chief executive of KPMG International which employs 265,000 people, said it "is embracing the future, and we believe that AI is key to unlocking sustainable growth in a way that will build a better future for our clients and society".

David Smith

Fewer workers and low productivity need urgent fixes. One could be AI

The latest official labour market statistics show a softening, except where it matters most to the Bank of England. Thus, vacancies have fallen for the 12th month in a row and the unemployment rate is up to 4 per cent. But regular pay growth is a chunky 7.3 per cent, and shows no sign of calming down, and will have the hawks at the Bank sharpening their talons for further interest rate hikes.

Businesses, meanwhile, are still struggling with labour shortages, which are helping to drive pay higher. "Wage costs remain very acute for employers across all sectors of the economy as businesses struggle to find talent in a market that still has more than 200,000 more vacancies than before the pandemic," said Kitty Ussher, chief economist at the Institute of Directors.

The British Chambers of Commerce is "concerned about the persistent tightness in the labour market, adding to the costs and difficulties facing businesses", while the CBI repeated its call for a review of the shortage occupations list, to allow migrant workers to fill the gaps where they are most acute.

I have unwelcome news for businesses, however. While all hope that the unusual state of the labour market is temporary, a new analysis suggests that worker scarcity may be with us for many years to come.

The analysis, to be published shortly by the Institute for Employment Studies (IES), as part of its Commission on the Future of Employment Support, sponsored by the abrdn Financial Fairness Trust, suggests there was a golden age of employment growth in the first 20 years of this century.

In the 2000-2020 period, employment grew by an average of more than 250,000 a year for "working-age" people, plus another 50,000 a year for the over-65s, which was exceptional.

So, in 20 years from the start of 2000, the number of people in employment rose



People working and retiring later won't be enough to fill shortages

from just over 27 million to 33 million. This increase of nearly 6 million was far stronger than the 2.1 million in the previous 20 years.

Over the 20 years from 2020, the IES analysis says, employment growth among 20-64-year-olds will be barely a quarter of the previous 20. Employment growth will struggle to reach 70,000 a year in the 20-64 age group, though the total would rise to more than 100,000 if employment growth among over-65s persists. In the first three years of this new era, since early 2020, there was no overall growth in employment at all.

What has changed to leave the prospective size of the workforce over the next 20 years many millions smaller than if the previous trend had continued? Covid and Brexit are factors, just as the opening up of the UK labour market to the new eastern European members of the EU in 2004 was a factor before. Non-EU immigration is compensating, though not fully, for the loss of EU workers.

Mainly, though, it is a result of demographic changes. Most baby boomers are now of normal retirement age, and even their children are approaching the age when employment tails off rapidly. Employment rates are higher for people from their mid-20s to mid-50s but then drop.

At the other end of the scale, very low birth rates mean the supply of future workers will be more limited than in the past. The "unmistakeable trend", says the report, is a decline in the population aged under 30.

What will the prospect of permanently slower workforce growth mean for the future? Government policy, including the improved childcare support announced by Jeremy Hunt a few months ago, will help but not prevent this from happening.

"In future, with a larger and older population and weaker employment growth, we're going to have to get a lot better at raising participation among those

outside the labour market and in boosting productivity," says Tony Wilson, director of the IES.

These changes will mean an increase in the number of older people relative to those of working age. Thirty years ago, there were four people aged 20-64 for every one of 65 or over. By 2060 there will only be two. Even allowing for some blurring around the edges as people retire and work later, this shift is guaranteed.

How will business respond? Productivity, a regular concern of mine, looks to be going from bad to worse. New official figures show that output per hour worked has fallen by 0.6 per cent over the past year, its worst performance since 2013. Output per worker has fallen by 0.9 per cent over the same period, its worst since 2009. Neither measure has shown growth since before the pandemic.

A lot of people think that productivity must be dragged down by the public sector. Sometimes that is true, but not recently. Public service productivity in the first quarter was up by 0.9 per cent on a year earlier. After falling in 2020, it rose by 7.3 per cent in 2021 and 1.7 per cent last year.

For the private sector, the key question is whether worker scarcity prompts a rise in business investment. It rose by 3.3 per cent in the first quarter, as firms took advantage of the so-called "super-deduction" against corporation tax and is now above pre-pandemic levels. This may, however, have been a flash in the pan, and the UK needs to break out of a situation in which business investment averages 10 per cent of gross domestic product, compared with a 14 per cent average for competitors.

There is plenty of scope for such investment, most notably in artificial intelligence, which could replace some of the tasks carried out by scarce labour and, indeed, is already doing so. At one time AI was feared because of worries that it would create mass unemployment. Now it could provide an opportunity for businesses to cope in an era where workers are less plentiful, and to boost productivity. It could be a win-win. The question, as always, is whether it will be.

“

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Katie Prescott

Imperial academics put flagging tech industries under the microscope

Look at the history of Taiwan's semiconductor industry and you'll find its success is no accident. The Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, which does what it says on the tin, was planned, commissioned even, by its own government.

If you turn to an equivalent in the UK, the semiconductor group Arm, architect of some of the world's most important chips, it had a far more chaotic trajectory. Starting with 12 individuals working from a village barn whose first meeting was in the local pub, it seemed to become a tech behemoth partly by luck and happenstance. Examine its history more closely, however, as James Ashton has done in *The Everything Blueprint*, serialised in The Times, and there are signs it was spurred on by a strategy: to bring computers

'While the UK has key priorities in tech, look around the world and industrial policy is back with a vengeance'

into every UK family home through the BBC Micro, manufactured by Acorn Computers in Cambridge. Arm was a spin-out of Acorn.

With an election looming there are growing calls from across the technology sector for more of an industry game plan, more BBC Micro-esque projects. We dumped the industrial strategy in 2021, now we want it back. The latest rallying cry came last week from that centre of engineering excellence, Imperial College, looking at three sectors in which the UK had traditionally excelled. It said starkly: "The UK is faced with a dramatic slowdown in its rate of economic growth, which is largely due to the declining rate of innovation and competitiveness of key sectors of the economy".

On a hot July morning academics from the business school and engineering faculty gathered to launch initial reports about the state of telecommunications, biopharma and medical technology. They said that their analysis would help inform any future industrial strategy, and that "turbocharging tech would increase global competitiveness in a

painful economic climate". Drifting in through the large windows looking out over the grand museums of Exhibition Road were the strained sounds of placard-bearing teachers protesting over pay, as one by one experts told the small audience what was hampering their industries. The reasons are, of course, complex and nuanced, but there were some common threads.

One was the decline of the UK's manufacturing sector. In biopharma, volumes are down 29 per cent since 2009, with the loss of 7,000 jobs because of falling sales margins and the cost of getting the right regulatory certificates for older plants. This is reflected in the trade balance, which has dropped noticeably: the UK's ranking has fallen from fourth in 2010 to 98th in 2020. Another concern for the tech businesses interviewed was how changing regulations after Brexit created red tape. In medtech, for example, devices that were certified under EU rules now have to be rechecked under the UK Conformity Assessed mark. Overall, the academics said, the sectors offered amazing economic opportunities, with the right nurturing or "targeted policy interventions".

While the UK has earmarked key growth sectors and priorities in tech, look around the world and industrial policy is back with a vengeance. The chips acts in America and Europe, the US Inflation Reduction Act and the EU's Net Zero Industry Act, are examples, offering mega subsidies and tax breaks. Just this week China announced the introduction of restrictions of exports on some critical metals used in the manufacture of, among other things, semiconductors. The UK's own semiconductor strategy was a bit of a damp squib, more a set of aspirations with no significant funding. TechUK, the trade body, recently bemoaned the lack of a long-term plan for the industry, warning there is a "risk of the UK falling behind" in this global race.

Imperial, a world-leading university with a rich engineering history, is forever name-checked as one of the UK's centres of technological excellence. We should all sit up and listen.

Katie Prescott is Technology Business Editor of The Times

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A reboot for net zero

In the latest of our interviews in association with SSE, discover WWF's visionary journey to pave the way for a greener, more sustainable world by encouraging broader cooperation, even between rivals

It is four years since the UK embarked on its journey to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, and while we have identified many of the key targets, progress in actually tackling them needs to speed up – sharpish. That is the message conveyed by the environmental campaigning group World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), whose chief executive, Tanya Steele, warns: "We are living in a warming world, and net zero has been a powerful commitment from the UK. But alarm bells are sounding in terms of the policies and actions that are backing up that commitment. We made some early wins on renewables, but even that job is nowhere near done yet."

Since the UK's bold initial move, many other major nations have followed suit and 90 per cent of the world's GDP is now committed to zero carbon targets. But Steele says that we risk going from leader to laggard on climate change – and missing out on the associated green business revolution – unless we can bring the UK's efforts back to the level of those early days. "I look to the government not just to make commitments, but to act on them and put credible plans in place that demonstrate the steps it is going to take, and give the private sector some assurance around its own net zero investments."

So the rollout of renewable energy infrastructure needs to accelerate. SSE is one of the leaders, investing a record £2.8 billion in the past year. But leadership is also required to take net zero beyond the so-called "easy wins" of low-carbon energy

and electric cars. We must delve into fertile new ground, such as the food we eat and how it is farmed, processed and cooked.

Diet may not be the first thing that springs to mind when it comes to cutting out carbon emissions, but Steele says its role in climate change needs to be better understood. For example, simply preparing a single portion of the nation's favourite meal – chicken tikka masala – produces the equivalent of some 2kg of CO₂, the same as boiling a kettle for a cup of tea 89 times over, according to a WWF report. "The amount of carbon that is locked up in the soil beneath our feet is huge; it is so important. But intensive farming disrupts the soil, so some of that carbon ends up in the atmosphere."

Agriculture also contributes inadvertently to deforestation in regions such as South America, she points out, because land is cleared for the intensive cultivation of soya beans, which are then shipped all over the world to feed farm animals. "However, if that land were stewarded properly, yields could be tripled, and there would be no need for further deforestation."

Innovations such as low and no-till farming can minimise this disruption to the soil, while introducing herbal leys (a mix of grasses, herbs and legumes) into farmers' existing crop rotation cycles can lock up even more carbon in the soil, enhance biodiversity and improve soil health at the same time.

While many customer-facing businesses have committed to their own net zero targets and are

90%
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reporting publicly on progress, weaning the entire farming sector off current subsidy models that prioritise yield over sustainability will take collaboration and concerted action. WWF has been working to promote just that, using its status as an independent NGO to bring arch rivals together in the name of saving the planet.

"We have convened six major UK supermarkets – Tesco, Lidl, Sainsbury's, Marks & Spencer, Waitrose and the Co-op – which have signed up to work with WWF on our ambition to halve the environmental impact of UK shopping baskets by the end of the decade," says Steele.

It is a model for joint action that she believes could be applied across other sectors, too. "They are competitors, so they have to do this in a very careful way – there is some oversight from a competition lawyer. But there are some great opportunities for collaboration, and we need more of these kinds of cross-sectoral initiatives."

Ultimately, she adds, we need to move to a world where carbon emissions and the environmental impact of businesses are fully priced in the financial system, rather than being parked on one side and called "externalities", as they have been in the past. "If you are a bank or an insurance company, do you really want to carry all that risk? This is something the financial sector is looking long and hard at."

So in the future, environmentally responsible businesses might find that their insurance premiums are

Pastures new: WWF CEO Tanya Steele says we need to look at fresh ways to tackle intensive farming

“

The amount of carbon that is locked up in the soil beneath our feet is huge; it is so important

lower or their bank loans are more affordable due to being perceived as lower risk.

Because while the threats posed by climate change are real, tackling them should be a positive for society. It does not, as some naysayers would have it, mean living in a world where centuries of economic progress have gone into reverse. "There is always this fear that we are going to lose lots of jobs," Steele says, "but the balance is that this is more about creating jobs, and better-paid ones, too. We just have to pick up the pace and turn it into a really big opportunity for growth in the industries of the future."



RIGHT ACTIONS, RIGHT NOW

SSE recently laid out plans to invest up to £40 billion across the next decade in low-carbon energy infrastructure. In the past year alone, the group has invested a record £2.8 billion – more than it made in profits – to reach key milestones on the road to a net zero future. These include:

- First power at Seagreen, the world's deepest tethered offshore wind farm
- Continuing to build Dogger Bank, which will be the world's largest offshore wind farm
- Laying the majority of a 260km subsea cable that will connect Shetland, the UK's windiest region, to the country's electricity grid for the first time
- Commissioning Keadby 2, one of the world's most efficient gas power plants
- Beginning exploratory work on the pumped hydro storage scheme Coire Glas, which is set to double the UK's existing electricity storage capacity

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Actuaries at war over race and bullying allegations

Alex Ralph
Chief Business Correspondent

The body regulating actuaries is embroiled in a governance and racism crisis following attempts by its former president to rejoin its governing council despite an independent investigation having found that he bullied its chief executive.

An investigation commissioned by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, a royal charter body that represents and regulates more than 30,000 members, upheld a formal grievance last year that Tan Suee Chieh, its former president, had bullied Stephen Mann, its chief executive, The Times has learnt. A series of reforms were recommended, including a governance review.

However, there is outrage and disgust that the institute's nominations committee recently deemed Tan, an industry veteran and former boss of Prudential in Singapore, fit and proper to stand for re-election to its council, despite the findings of the investigation.

The nominations committee members include Kalpana Shah, the institute's president-elect and a non-executive of Just Group, the FTSE 250 financial services group.

The unrest is said to have created paralysis at the institute and has led to the institute's annual meeting being delayed from June until September and the appointment of an external PR firm.

Mann, a senior industry figure and former director of the Aviva Life business, was among those to have raised concerns at the nominations committee's deci-



The institute appointed Stephen Sidebottom, the chairman of the Institute of Risk Management, to conduct an independent investigation, which upheld the grievance in August and made a series of recommendations. Governance reforms were agreed last month.

The institute wrote

sion. He declined to comment.

Contacted about the dispute, Tan said the allegations are "totally unfounded" and claimed they stemmed from "inbuilt cultural and racial biases in the IFoA which go to the heart of the problems of the organisation". He said he had therefore "taken the difficult decision to withdraw my candidacy".

There were concerns that Tan's election would force resignations and that the institute would have been seen to condone bullying.

The institute is a professional body for the education, development and regulation of actuaries based in the UK and internationally. It was formed through the merger of the Institute of Actuaries in England and the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland in 2010. Its role includes setting disciplinary standards for its members, administering professional standards and ensuring the public has confidence in the work of actuaries.

Mann raised a formal grievance in the spring of last year against the institute, alleging numerous counts of bullying and inappropriate behaviour by Tan, who was the institute's first Asian president and

was on the presidential team between June 2019 and June last year. The behaviour allegedly included intimidatory behaviour and threats to jobs.

The institute appointed Stephen Sidebottom, the chairman of the Institute of Risk Management, to conduct an independent investigation, which upheld the grievance in August and made a series of recommendations. Governance reforms were agreed last month.

The institute wrote



Tan Suee Chieh, former president of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, denied bullying Stephen Mann, below left. Below, the body's offices in Holborn, central London

a letter of apology to Mann and agreed to his requests for protection to stop it happening again.

In May, Tan submitted his nomination for the institute's council election. The institute's nominations committee deemed him fit and proper to stand after its decision that month was challenged and retaken in June.

Three members of the nominations committee excused themselves from the decision, with two of them having given evidence to Sidebottom's investigation.

There were concerns that Tan's return could lead to a watering down of the reforms if members voted for his election.

Tan said he supported the governance reforms but rejected the findings of the Sidebottom report, which he said was conducted in "secrecy and without the right for me to reply".

"No grievances have ever been put to me directly, the report did

not name me, so the accusations are baseless and without any grounding. I co-operated willingly with Mr Sidebottom because I was led to believe the purpose of the report was to improve the governance of the IFoA."

Tan claimed "difference in cultures and ways of working has led to these allegations" and that he would have to "wait for the right time to address the entrenched issues of executive and management capture that reinforce the cultural bias in the IFoA".

A spokeswoman for the institute said it "treats allegations of any behaviour inconsistent with its values, including allegations of bullying, very seriously".

"In August 2022, following an independent investigation, a grievance made by an employee to the IFoA in relation to the behaviour of a senior IFoA volunteer was upheld. The management board of the IFoA accepted in full the find-

ings of the investigation and issued an apology to the employee concerned. The work of implementing the recommendations made to the IFoA by the investigator is nearing completion. Most significantly, following a further independent review, in June 2023 council approved significant changes to the IFoA's governance, which it has begun to implement."

The spokeswoman said the institute was "satisfied that appropriately robust and fair processes were followed in relation to its council elections, including the process followed by its nominations committee", but added that "the limitations in its rules and procedures which have been highlighted by this case will be addressed as part of the forthcoming governance changes".

She said the institute "strongly refutes any allegations that the grievance investigation did not follow fair and appropriate process". "The IFoA also strongly refutes any suggestion that the grievance or investigation were in any way driven by cultural or racial differences."

Shah, the president-elect, referred a request for comment to the institute.

Raconteur

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

DOES THE UK NEED A HOMEGROWN GDPR?



Tesla to sell electricity in Britain

Callum Jones
US Business Correspondent

Tesla is preparing to shake up the British energy market by launching a retail provider and selling electricity to households.

Elon Musk's electric carmaker, which also has an energy business, is seeking an executive to lead its drive into the UK.

The head of operations for Tesla Electric will take charge of trying to obtain a supply licence and prepare the business for a "commercial launch of a retail electricity product in the UK", according to a job advert.

Tesla's energy generation and storage business includes both solar panels and stationary batter-

ies. The group initially launched its Tesla Electric retail energy business on an invitation-only basis late last year in some markets in Texas, home to its headquarters.

Tesla Electric, available to owners of its Powerwall home batteries, has been pitched as a buffer against peak prices. It sells electricity to customers and sells back their excess electricity to the grid when prices are high.

The advert for an executive to lead the unit's British arm, first reported by The Daily Telegraph, made clear that the successful candidate would have "operational responsibility for our retail electricity activities in the UK".

"This includes responsibility for managing our market entry, and

building out the team, systems and processes needed to start operations," according to the job description.

Shares in Tesla were broadly flat in New York yesterday, up 18 cents, or 0.1 per cent, at \$269.79.

Separately, it was reported that plans for a glass-walled building near Tesla's gigafactory in Austin, Texas, had been described inside the company as a house for Musk, its chief executive. Tesla board members investigated whether company resources had been misused and if Musk, himself, had a role, according to The Wall Street Journal, which cited sources with knowledge of the situation.

Tesla did not respond to an invitation for comment.

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North Amer @#	153.00	...	-0.80	0.36	UK Alpha A Acc @#	2557.63	...	-0.59	2.03	
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UK FTSE 100 IT @#	67.59	...	-0.49	2.55	UK Smaller Companies A Acc @#	1939.53	...	+16.17	
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Amer Ind Inv @#	750.82	...	-5.94	2.51	America Div Inv @#	94.03	...	-0.04	0.21		
Euro Ind Acc @#	735.62	...	-0.43	2.70	Asia Div Inv @#	94.03	...	+3.23		
FTSE 100 Ind Acc @#	267.09	...	-0.44	3.31	Europ Ind Acc @#	166.69	...	+0.27	0.92		
FTSE 100 Ind Inv @#	119.28	...	-0.20	3.39	Far Eastern Ind Acc @#	2454.54	...	-0.19	1.96		
FTSE 250 Ind Acc @#	275.33	...	-1.86	3.69	FTSE 250 Ind Acc @#	131.60	...	+0.09	3.32		
FTSE 250 Ind Inv @#	163.81	...	-1.08	3.12	FTSE All-Shr Inv Acc @#	1253.17	...	+3.34	1.59		
FTSE All-Shr Inv Acc @#	67.09	...	-0.21	3.37	FTSE All-Shr Inv Inv Acc @#	1253.17	...	+3.34	1.59		
FTSE All-Shr Inv Inv Acc @#	337.38	...	-0.11	3.45	FTSE All-Shr Inv Inv Inv Acc @#	1253.17	...	+3.34	1.59		
Jap Ind Acc @#	144.41	...	-0.69	1.89	Jap Ind Acc @#	103.37	...	+4.00	0.30		
Jap Ind Acc @#	110.39	...	-0.52	1.93	Jap Ind Acc @#	103.37	...	+4.00	0.30		
Pac Ind Acc @#	486.91	...	+2.11	3.43	Pac Ind Acc @#	1253.00	...	-3.00	0.88		
Pac Ind Acc @#	295.75	...	+1.29	3.55	Fix Int Mnthly Inv Fd Acc @#	227.62	...	+0.11	4.68		
					Global Equity Fund Acc @#	1021.00	...	-12.00		
					Global Equity Income A Inc @#	636.41	...	-0.32	3.30		
					Global Tech A Acc @#	3194.00	...	-17.00		
					Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc @#	101.97	...	-0.61	2.97		
					M-Assets Bldg A Ret Acc @#	158.80	...	-0.10	2.96		
					M-Man Active Fd A Acc @#	251.70	...	-0.10	2.44		
					Income Acc @#	676.65	...	-0.39	4.27		
					Income Acc @#	277.62	...	-0.16	4.41		
					Monthly Inc Acc @#	313.41	...	-0.07	3.21		
					Monthly Inc Inv @#	121.20	...	-0.06	4.10		
					UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc @#	158.21	...	-0.08	4.18		
					UK Gtch & Inv Bld A Inv @#	97.49	...	-0.03	4.32		
					UK Gtch & Inv Bld A Inv @#	138.21	...	-0.08	4.18		
					UK Gtch & Inv Bld A Inv @#	61.00	...	-0.03	4.32		
					UK Alpha Fund A Acc @#	129.70	...	-0.70	1.17		
								+0.50	0.80		
HSBC Investment Funds (OEICs) - Retail Share Class															
Balanced Acc @#	238.17	...	-0.75	0.93	Balanced Acc @#	976.20	...	+14.00		
Balanced Inc @#	151.95	...	-0.14	...	Balanced Inc @#	976.20	...	+14.00		
Corp Bd Acc @#	255.98	...	-0.59	5.08	Corp Bd Acc @#	976.20	...	+14.00		
Corp Bd Inv @#	98.42	...	-0.23	3.48	Corp Bd Inv @#	976.20	...	+14.00		
Gilt & Fd Int Acc @#	497.78	...	-1.62	...	Gilt & Fd Int Acc @#	976.20	...	+14.00		
Gilt & Fd Int Inv @#	174.77	...	-0.24	...	Gilt & Fd Int Inv @#	976.20	...	+14.00		
Income Acc @#	496.65	...	-1.04	3.08	Income Acc @#	976.20	...	+14.00		
Income Inv Acc @#	100.22	...	-0.05	...	Income Inv Acc @#	976.20	...	+14.00		
Intl Growth Acc @#	380.56	...	-0.02	0.75	Intl Growth Acc @#	976.20	...	+14.00		
Intl Growth Inv Acc @#	41.85	...	-0.43	0.56	Intl Growth Inv Acc @#	976.20	...	+14.00		
Japanese Acc @#	276														

High borrowing costs threaten to kill 'zombie firms'

Helen Cahill

Tens of thousands of so-called "zombie" companies will fall prey to rising interest rates and inflation in the coming months, according to the boss of Begbies Traynor.

Ric Traynor, executive chairman of the insolvency specialist, predicted that highly indebted companies that have only managed to cling on thanks to cheap borrowing costs will fail over the next 18 months.

"We used to have cheap money and a benign environment, but the world has changed pretty dramatically over the course of the past six months," he said.

"We are talking in many instances about relatively small companies, so there will be a big volume but the knock-on impact on employment isn't as marked. But certainly the volumes are into the tens of thousands. And what normally happens is those that are not strong enough to survive go to the wall and those businesses which are more efficient pick up that slack."

"Ultimately that is better for the economy than having businesses that plod along and can't afford to invest and grow."

Begbies Traynor, based in Manchester, tends to perform strongly in economic downturns. It reported an 11 per cent increase in revenue to £121.8 million for the year ended April 30. Revenues from insolvency appointments increased to £71 million as the group benefited from a "significant increase" in higher-value cases. Adjusted profit before tax rose by 16 per cent from £17.8 million to £20.7 million.

STM Group agrees £42m pensions deal

Dominic Walsh

The pensions administrator STM Group has agreed to the key terms of a £41.6 million cash takeover by Edi Truell's Pension Superfund Capital at a big premium to Monday's closing price of 27½p.

In a stock exchange announcement, STM said the offer had been pitched at 70p a share. The shares responded by jumping 20p to 47½p. However, the company said discussions were "at a very early stage" and there could be "no certainty that any offer will ultimately be made for the company".

STM Group confirmed to Pension Superfund Capital that if a firm offer were made it would "be minded to recommend it unanimously to its shareholders". The suitor has until close of play on August 8 to act.

STM made its name through acquisitions of Sipp books (self-invested personal pensions), including a deal last year to buy Mercer's assets for £3.3 million and a takeover of Carey Pensions' assets in 2018. According to Sky News, Pension Superfund Capital is among a number of parties interested in making an offer for the company.

Truell's fund aims to provide a complete solution to pension savers and recently had an injection of capital to prepare for several pension risk transfers.

Company insolvencies have jumped to the highest levels since monthly records began as businesses reckon with rising interest rates and inflation. Data from the Insolvency Service showed that the number of companies declared insolvent in May rose by 40 per cent on the year to 2,552. Construction and retail were the hardest-hit sectors.

Begbies rewarded shareholders with an increase to its dividend for the sixth year in a row, raising the total for the year by 9 per cent from 3.5p to 3.8p.

Traynor said the company had doubled its revenues over the past five years on the back of acquisitions. The group has purchased the property finance specialist Mantra Capital and chartered surveyors Budworth Hardcastle, Mark Jenkinson & Son and Banks, Long & Co. Traynor said the group's balance sheet and cashflow would be able to support continued growth through further investments in the company and through acquisitions.

He added: "We have a proven growth strategy which, over the five-year period between 2019 and 2023, has doubled revenue and tripled adjusted profit before tax, from a combination of organic growth and acquisitions. This growth has been delivered across insolvency and our full range of advisory and transactional services."

● H&T, Britain's largest pawnbroker, has also performed well in recent months, with gross lending up 22 per cent to £128 million in the six months to June 30. It said demand for traditional pledge lending, where customers deposit valuables as collateral for loans, was at record levels.

Rudd return shows intent at Intuitive

Ben Martin

The City grandee who made his name by turning Williams into a giant industrial conglomerate in the 1980s is making a return to the London stock market.

Sir Nigel Rudd, 76, has been named as the next chairman of Intuitive Investments Group, an Aim-listed trust that backs companies in the life sciences industry. His appointment is subject to Intuitive completing its planned move from Aim to the specialist fund segment of London's main market, expected to take place next month.

Rudd, has chaired big listed and private companies but is not on the board of a London-quoted business. He transformed a near-bankrupt foundry into the FTSE 100-listed group Williams, which was later demerged into Chubb and Kidde.

He has chaired Heathrow airport, Meggitt, Signature Aviation, the former London-listed private jet services group that was also recently taken over, and Alliance Boots.

Julian Baines, the outgoing chairman of Intuitive, said: "It is a testament to our ambition that we have been able to attract someone of Sir Nigel's calibre and experience."

Intuitive is valued at about £4.3 million by investors. The shares closed ½p, or 10 per cent, higher at 5½p.



High and dry The cost of moving diesel from Rotterdam's oil trading hub to a key point on the Rhine in Germany has risen 11 per cent to €46 (£39) a tonne, according to data compiled by Insights Global, as low water levels restrict barge volumes



Free books of the month

This July, you can enjoy *A Lady's Guide to Fortune-Hunting* by Sophie Irwin and *Take Your Breath Away* by Linwood Barclay. Also, listen to *Double or Nothing* by Kim Sherwood.

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Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips

Builder has the tools to bounce back

REDROW	Discount to net asset val 34%	Cash on balance sheet £107m
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This column avoided Redrow, the housebuilder, back in February given the gloominess surrounding the property market. It was a good call, with the shares having lost a fifth of their value since then.

Most of that damage has come in the past six weeks, reflecting the jump in interest rate forecasts and the effect on mortgage affordability.

The expectation had been that, by now, the housebuilders would be through the worst of the downturn and that buyers' confidence would be on its way back towards something like "normal". It has not played out like that and so the obvious move would be to steer clear of Redrow for a while still. Yet the share price slide could, for those brave enough to look through the near-term uncertainty, present an opportunity.

Redrow's share price is now a third below its book value, according to analysis from Peel Hunt, implying the market thinks the land it holds and the houses it is building are not worth anywhere near what they once were. Even if that were true at this moment, it is hard to make the case that land and home values will be worth less in five years' time. As Mark Twain said: "Buy land — they're not making it any more."

Aside from Crest Nicholson, of the volume housebuilders Redrow

Quality streets



ADVICE Buy

WHY Recent slump in share price presents an opportunity

screens as the cheapest on the "share price to net asset value" metric, despite analysts' belief that it is among the least likely to have to write down the value of its assets. A big worry for investors is the chaos that went on in the property market in the global financial crisis 15 years ago. Developers, in desperate need of cash, were selling their houses at any price. But they do not need to repeat that during the downturn, with

balance sheets and debt levels much healthier than they were back then.

As of the end of January Redrow still had £107 million of cash on its balance sheet, less than half what it had a year earlier but that was before it bought back £100 million of its shares. Management have already said that they are not buying new land, which should further help to preserve cash, and even during this downturn Redrow is still expected to turn a profit in the coming year.

The consensus in the City is that Redrow will generate an underlying pre-tax profit of £367 million for the year just gone, which ran until the end of June. Profits will fall to about £208 million in its 2023-24 year. The

fall will reflect a drop in output to match the lower levels of demand, with prices, so far at least, holding up much better than some had feared. That was evidenced in the latest data from Halifax, the mortgage lender, which last week said that new-build house prices remained 1.9 per cent above where they were this time last year. By contrast, values of older homes fell by 3.5 per cent on average.

Distress among big developers and homeowners is yet to show, which is probably part of the reason why prices are firmer than predicted. Unlike during the 2008 crisis, banks are still providing loans, they are just more expensive to service. That should matter less for Redrow, which builds bigger houses and sells them to second or third movers, or people looking to downsize. Its buyers tend to require smaller mortgages, if they need them at all. Last year 33 per cent of its sales were to cash buyers. If all else fails Redrow has its superior product offering to fall back on. Ask the bosses of any of its rivals which developer builds the best homes and most will have Redrow at the top or somewhere close.

Backing Redrow, or any of the housebuilders, is a risky strategy in the present environment. In the near-term should inflation, and so interest rates, come down quicker than feared, Aynsley Lammin, an analyst at Investec, would expect to see a near-term "significant re-rating". The shares' sharp discount to book value underpins the longer-term investment case.

DRAZ

Adjusted ebitda (2022) £731m	Subsidies received £617m
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Tick, tick. It's now less than four years until the subsidies that have sustained Drax's Yorkshire biomass plant run out, putting the fate of Britain's biggest power station and the FTSE 250 energy group into focus (Emily Gosden writes).

Drax received £617 million of subsidies for burning biomass last year, underpinning adjusted earnings of £731 million.

Despite efforts to reduce costs, increases in the price of biomass may render the plant unviable when these

payments end in March 2027. Drax hoped to win government backing for its £2 billion project to convert the plant to bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (Beccs) by 2027, securing new subsidies just as the existing payments run out.

But ministers have gone slow on that, prioritising carbon capture elsewhere and pushing Drax's potential Beccs start date back to 2030. The government is discussing "bridging" arrangements to tide Drax over, but the Climate Change Committee — while supportive of Beccs — has said that unabated biomass plants "should not be given extended contracts to operate at high load factors beyond 2027".

Ed Miliband, the shadow climate secretary, has indicated that Labour would review subsidies for biomass amid continued controversy, and an Ofgem investigation, into Drax's sustainability credentials.

The delay to Drax's Beccs project at least has a silver lining for investors: it's using £50 million of cancelled capital spending to help fund a £150 million share buyback programme this year.

And the Yorkshire plant, while the core of Drax's business, is not its only asset or opportunity. In Britain it operates the Cruachan pumped hydro plant and is hoping to expand it, although this, too, is subject to government backing.

Bigger opportunities lie across the pond where incentives under the Inflation Reduction Act are making the development of Beccs plants more attractive. Drax is working on a pipeline of projects in America and has inspired the City with ambitious plans to invest as much as \$4 billion developing two of them this decade.

However, with the future of its big asset back at home still in doubt, it could be a rocky few years ahead.

ADVICE Hold

WHY Uncertainty over future of biggest asset

PRICES

Major indices

New York	Zurich
Dow Jones 34261.42 (+317.02)	SMI Index 10962.59 (+40.58)
Nasdaq Composite 13760.70 (+75.22)	DJ Euro Stoxx 50 4286.56 (+30.05)
S&P 500 4439.26 (+29.73)	
Tokyo	London
Nikkei 225 32203.57 (+13.84)	FTSE 100 7282.52 (+8.73)
	FTSE 250 18140.09 (+112.13)
	FTSE 350 4011.65 (+7.63)
	FTSE Eurotop 100 3550.70 (+18.91)
	FTSE All-Shares 3973.18 (+7.38)
	FTSE Non Financials 4809.43 (+12.38)
	techMARK 100 6493.70 (+8.23)
	Bargains n/a
	US\$ 1.2916 (+0.0053)
	Euro 1.1741 (+0.0056)
	£:SDR 0.98 (+0.00)
	Exchange Index 82.62 (-0.16)
	Bank of England official close (4pm)
	CPI 131.31 May (2015 = 100)
	RPI 375.30 May (Jan 1987 = 100)
	RPIX 290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
	Morningstar Long Commodity 677.16 (+5.72)
	Morningstar Long/Short Commodity 4703.45 (+27.75)

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	SEP 23	93.270	93.310	92.470	92.650	143314	516025
	Dec 23	95.100	95.500	95.040	92.920	12	
3-Mth Sterling	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Sep 23	96.070	96.075	96.060	96.070	69886	588714
	Dec 23	95.960	95.975	95.935	95.945	100691	463863
	Mar 24	95.980	96.000	95.945	95.960	70274	484380
	Jun 24	96.105	96.130	96.070	96.080	75398	414510
	Sep 24	96.280	96.305	96.235	96.245	70277	242741
3-Mth Euroswiss	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
FTSE100	Sep 23	7258.5	7285.0	7232.0	7272.0	82517	573116
	Dec 23	7333.0	7333.0	7333.0	7334.0	29	461
FTSEurofirst 80	Sep 23				5829.0		
	Dec 23				5856.0		

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Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)		Brent (9.00pm)	
Sep	79.21-79.20	Dec	78.04-78.03
Oct	78.88-78.86	Jan	77.64-77.60
Nov	78.46-78.44	Volume:	2024909
Liffe		Cocoa	
Brent Physical	79.66	+1.94	Jul 2714-2415 Sep 2391-2360
BF0E(Sep)	79.43	+1.71	Sep 2619-2616 Dec 2338-2349
BF0E(Oct)	79.11	+1.67	Dec 2568-2562 Mar 2402-2281
WTI(Sep)	74.71	+1.76	May 2600-2504
WTI(Oct)	74.44	+1.74	Jul 2461-2440 Jul 2428-2419 Volume: 70690
Products (\$/MT)		RobustaCoffee	
Premium Unld	875.00	878.00	Jul 2738-2680 Mar 2315-2300
Gasoil EEC	769.75	770.75	Sep 2570-2569 May 2488-2300
3.5 Fuel Oil	451.00	462.00	Nov 2424-2416 Jan 2355-2354 Volume: 14642
Naphtha	576.00	590.00	+19.00
ICE Futures		White Sugar (FOB)	
Gas Oil			Reuters Mar 643.50-642.00
			May 633.30-630.30
Jul	761.50-761.00	Oct 742.75-742.25	Aug 680.80-678.00 Aug 616.40-602.70
Aug	748.75-748.50	Nov 736.50-736.25	Oct 599.80-587.40
Sep	744.50-744.25	Volume: 646015	Dec 651.50-648.60 Volume: 81905

NEWS IN BRIEF

Heathrow numbers fly

Heathrow passenger numbers are close to returning to levels last seen before the pandemic. The airport's latest figures show that seven million passengers used its terminals last month, just 3 per cent below the total in June 2019. Passenger numbers reached 6.7 million in May. Heathrow said transatlantic travel was driving the pick-up, with US visitors travelling home at the end of last month for Fourth of July celebrations. Heathrow is predicting that its total number for this year will be between 70 million and 78 million.

Holmes' jail term cut

Elizabeth Holmes, the founder of the failed blood-testing company Theranos, has had her sentence for fraud reduced by two years. Holmes, 39, began her 11-year prison term in Texas in May but the Federal Bureau of Prisons said her projected release date was now December 29, 2032. She founded Theranos in 2003 with a promise to revolutionise healthcare with technology that it said required a just few drops of blood to conduct dozens of medical tests. It closed in 2018.

KPMG in Microsoft deal

Microsoft and KPMG last night announced a multi-billion expansion of their relationship across areas including workforce modernisation, safe and secure development, and use of artificial intelligence solutions for clients, industries and society. The agreement includes a KPMG commitment in Microsoft cloud and Azure OpenAI services over the next five years that will unlock potential growth for KPMG of more than \$12 billion, the two companies said.

Restaurant revolt

One of the activist investors targeting The Restaurant Group has called for the chairman to resign over what it claims are corporate governance failures. Irenic Capital Management claimed that Ken Hanna, 70, chairman of the Wagamama and Frankie & Benny's operator, had displayed "partiality" against certain shareholders by refusing to appoint a non-executive director from the "activist community". Shares in TRG fell by 0.7 per cent, or 4p, to 38p.



Kingspan reigns over Americas

Kingspan's shares enjoyed their best single day rise in 14 years as it told investors that it expected to report record half-year profits.

The Irish building materials maker told the City that trading profit for the first six months of the year would be in the region of €435 million, slightly ahead of the same period a year earlier

and 9 per cent up on previous guidance.

In a trading update Kingspan said its performance within the Americas outpaced activity in Europe. "The demand for data applications remains strong with artificial intelligence projects an emerging feature. The residential sector worldwide is subdued in a higher interest-rate environment although the underlying need for housing appears strong in most markets," the company said.

However, it is "positioned favourably" as it enters the third quarter and its pipeline and

development agenda is "encouraging".

Kingspan was founded in Cavan, Ireland, in 1965 by Eugene Murtagh, whose son, Gene, now runs the business. It employs more than 22,000 people in over 80 countries, including Australia, above, and last year had revenues of €8.3 billion.

In April the group said it would seek to cancel its London listing and move to a single listing in Dublin as share trading in the UK was negligible. Shareholders vote on the plans next week.

Kingspan's shares closed 16 per cent higher at €66.30.

British Land's good day at the office defies doubters

Jessica Newman Market report

It's understandable why investors have steered clear of commercial property stocks given how hard the sector has been hit from high inflation, rising interest rates and uncertainties around the full return to the office. But British Land's first-quarter trading update seemed to alleviate some fears yesterday after Simon Carter, the group's boss, said it had "continued to see strong operational momentum" despite macroeconomic uncertainties.

The FTSE 250 company, which was recently demoted from London's senior index, leased 552,000 sq ft of space across its portfolio in the first quarter, 11 per cent ahead of its estimated rental value, and has another 1.2 million sq ft of its portfolio under offer. British Land,

RETAIL

Ashley switched on to Currys

Mike Ashley's Frasers Group has taken a further stake in Currys, prompting shares to spark in the electricals retailer.

The retail group told the City yesterday that it had increased its stake from 10.4 per cent to 11.1 per cent as part of its "strategic investment" in the business. Shares in Currys increased by 1½p, or 2.8 per cent, to 51½p on the news, while shares in Frasers were up 5p, or 0.7 per cent, to 700½p. The Sports Direct and Lillywhites owner previously told investors that it was a



Currys' electrical sales struck the right note during the pandemic

"valuable opportunity" to expand its presence in the electricals sector and enhance the relationship between Currys and Frasers' online discount retailer, Studio Retail.

Alex Baldock, 52,

chief executive of Currys, said last week there were a "number of avenues" that the two businesses were exploring. "It is a potentially interesting partnership," he said.

Frasers Group has been on an acquisition spree in recent weeks, snapping up bigger stakes in the online fashion brands Asos and Boohoo.

It recently became the second-largest shareholder in AO World, a rival to Currys, following its acquisition of a 22.2 per cent interest in the Bolton-based business.

Wall Street report

Indices rose for a second day helped by gains in financial shares, as investors awaited today's key report on inflation and the start of the earnings season on Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 317.02 points, or 0.9 per cent, to 34,261.42.

whose portfolio was valued at £13 billion at the end of March, also said it was progressing with its life sciences strategy with planning being received at two additional sites, while retail parks continued to "the winning retail format".

Despite the positive update analysts at Shore Capital are concerned that British Land's exposure to City offices means it is likely to underperform in the event of a further markdown in valuations. Investors appeared to disregard the broker's concerns, though, as British Land's shares rose by 11¾p, or 3.8 per cent, to 314¾p.

British Land was among the top ten risers on the FTSE 250, which rose 112.13 points, or 0.6 per cent, to 18,140.09. The dollar-dependent FTSE 100, held back by sterling's rise, underperformed in Europe as it edged up just 8.73 points, or 0.1 per cent, at 7,282.52. The stronger pound meant declines for shares in exporters and dollar earners listed on the senior index that benefit from a weaker

pound. Shares in Rentokil Initial, the pest control-to-hygiene company, dipped 10p, or 1.7 per cent, to 590½p; Convatec, the medical devices firm, was off 3½p, or 1.6 per cent, to 196¾p; and AstraZeneca, the drugs group, shed 98p, or 1 per cent, to £100.82.

Dowlais Group, the engineering firm spun out of Melrose Industries this year, was under heavy selling pressure after analysts at Citigroup issued a "sell" note. As a result the stock was one of the biggest casualties among the mid-cap constituents, losing 7½p, or 5.9 per cent, to 117¾p.

Helping to cap losses on the FTSE 100 were retail stocks and London's heavyweight miners. Figures showing UK retail sales rose last month thanks to warmer weather sweetened sentiment towards JD Sports, which gained 3½p, or 2.5 per cent, to 144½p and the Primark owner Associated British Foods, which advanced 40p, or 2 per cent, to £20.50, while Next put on 122p, or 1.8 per cent, to £68.12. The softer dollar and new policy

measures in China gave metal prices a boost, making mining stocks attractive. Fresnillo moved up 10p, or 1.7 per cent, to 613½p; Rio Tinto added 78p, or 1.6 per cent, to £49.47; and Anglo American was marked up 35p, or 1.6 per cent, to £22.29.

RHI Magnesita's shares lit up 146p, or 5.4 per cent, to £28.28 after Ignite Luxembourg Holdings Sarl said its offer to buy 29.9 per cent of the refractory products maker's shares had received valid acceptances for about 19.5 per cent of the group's shared capital. Investors cheered an update from Galliford Try, which said it expected to report pre-tax profits at the top end of consensus estimates. It lifted the construction group's shares 15p, or 7.7 per cent, to 210p, a fresh record. Down on London's junior stock market, Eagle Eye Solutions, the digital promotions company, hailed an "outstanding year" with revenues up by more than a third to £43.1 million. Its shares closed up 15p, or 2.7 per cent, to 570p.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Hammerson	Recovers some losses
British Land	Positive leasing update
Future	Follow-through buying as investors cheer new buyback plans
Unite Group	Extends gains following strong update
JD Sports	Positive retail sales data
AstraZeneca	Strong pound weighs on dollar-earners
Bytes Technology Group	Follow-through selling
Rentokil Initial	Does not benefit from a stronger sterling
Dowlais Group	Citigroup issues "sell" note
OSB Group	Positive sentiment evaporates

London Grain Futures			
Liffe Wheat (close £/t)			
Nov 195.40	Jan 204.60	Feb 212.00	Mar 212.00
British Metal Exchange (Official)			
Cash	3mth	Dec 22	
Copper Gde A (\$/tonne)	8370.0-8371.0	8387.0-8388.0	8410.0-8420.0
Lead (\$/tonne)	2070.0-2072.0	2057.0-2057.5	2073.0-2078.0
Zinc Spec Hg Gde (\$/tonne)	2360.0-2361.0	2378.0-2379.0	2397.0-2402.0
Alum Hi Gde (\$/tonne)	2128.5-2129.0	2179.0-2179.5	2332.0-2337.0
Nickel (\$/tonne)	20450.0-20460.0	20700.0-20705.0	21765.0-21815.0
Tin (\$/tonne)	28740.0-28750.0	28225.0-28250.0	27190.0-27240.0

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Friday.

Bullion: Open \$1924.92

Close \$1930.67-1930.89 High \$1938.83

Low \$1924.44

AM \$1925.05 PM \$1922.80

Platinum \$1092.00 (£846.49)

Silver \$23.06 (£17.87)

Palladium \$1721.11 (£1334.16)

European money deposits %

	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	5.50	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 5.00 ECB Refi 4.00 US Fed Fund 5.00-5.25

Halifax Mortgage Rate 7.99

Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 5.070; 3 mth 5.421. Sell: 1 mth 4.900; 3 mth 5.280

Interbank Rates 1 mth 4.2013 2 mth 0.000 3 mth 5.4350 6 mth 4.7447 12 mth 0.00

Eurodollar Deps 5.33-5.55 0.00-0.00 5.04-5.04 4.67-4.67 3.82-3.82

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Copenhagen	8.7036-8.7629	8.7436-8.7449	157ds	490ds		
Euro	1.1758-1.1681	1.1733-1.1733	12pr	39pr		
Montreal	1.7051-1.7158	1.7099-1.7102	4ds	22ds		
New York	1.2858-1.2932	1.2900-1.2900	2pr	1pr		
Oslo	13.352-13.506	13.378-13.381	142ds	389ds		
Stockholm	13.761-13.863	13.776-13.779	207ds	613ds		
Tokyo	180.84-181.98	181.19-181.20	85ds	259ds		
Zurich	1.1350-1.1402	1.1358-1.1359	36ds	110ds		
		Premium = pr				
		Discount = ds				

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5007-1.5009
Canada	1.3256-1.3257
Denmark	6.7784-6.7789
Euro	0.9095-0.9096
Hong Kong	7.8274-7.8275
Japan	140.46-140.46
Malaysia	4.6550-4.6600
Norway	10.369-10.375
Singapore	1.3419-1.3421
Sweden	10.679-10.682
Switzerland	0.8805-0.8805

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	339.72-339.73
Australia dollar	1.9360-1.9362
Bahrain dinar	0.4828-0.4899
Brazil real	6.2995-6.3034
Euro	1.1732-1.1733
Hong Kong dollar	10.097-10.098
India rupee	106.30-106.30
Indonesia rupiah	19555-19558
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3950-0.3973
Malaysia ringgit	6.0064-6.0129
New Zealand dollar	2.0867-2.0871
Singapore dollar	1.7310-1.7313
S Africa rand	23.926-23.937
U A E dirham	4.7403-4.7429

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia \$	1.938	+0.01
Canada \$	1.711	+0.01
Denmark Kr	8.746	+0.04
Euro €	1.173	+0.01
Hong Kong \$	10.096	+0.06
Hungary	443.779	-1.97
Indonesia	19526.162	+52.03
Israel Shk	4.754	+0.01
Japan Yen	181.352	-0.24
New Zealand \$	2.086	+0.02
Norway Kr	13.392	-0.11
Poland	5.214	+0.02
Russia	116.590	+0.02
S Africa Rd	23.948	-0.21
Sweden Kr	13.765	-0.10
Switzerland Fr	1.138	</

Business Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.

Investment companies

12 month	High	Low	Company	Price (p)				Yld %	Dis(%)	Price (p)	Yld %	Dis(%)
				+/-	%	or Pm						
2036	1044½	3i Group		1872	+	1	...	8.2				
352	276½	3i Infrastructure		309	-	4	...	-6.1				
101	78	Abrdn Inv &Gv		79	-	1½	...	-29.3				
1428	1066	Aberforth Smrl		1210	+	4	...	-14.8				
1046	884	Alliance		997	+	2	...	-6.2				
457	345	Asia Dragon Tr		367	+	2	...	-13.6				
220	171½	Atheneley Trust		195			...	-7.2				
2061½	171½	AVI Global Trust		186½	+	½	...	-10.8				
335½	204½	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr		215	+	1	...	-12.3				
102½	73½	Baillie Gifford Eu Gr		92	+	½	...	-13.5				
829	692	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr		762			...	-6.0				
168	135½	Baillie Gifford SN		138½	+	½	...	-11.1				
183	139½	Baillie Gifford UK Gr		160½			...	-14.7				
109	90%	Bankers		96½	+	½	...	-11.2				
5232	346	BH Macro		352	-	8	...	-8.4				
1048	745½	Biotech Growth		803	+	2	...	-7.7				
150	95	BlckRck Com Inc		113½	+	1½	...	-10.5				
144½	117½	BlckRck Fro Inv		137½	+	½	...	-8.4				
566	396	BlckRck Grt Euro		523	+	7	...	-10.2				
206	165	BlckRck Grt & Gwth		184½	+	1	...	-7.2				
428	330	BlckRck Latin Am		422½	+	10	...	-12.4				
215	179½	BlckRck SustAm		185	+	1	...	-7.3				
1478	1162	BlckRck Smrl		1242			...	-13.4				
670	477½	BlckRck Throgmorton		564			...	-5.7				
774	524	BlckRck Wld Min		602	+	12	...	-2.1				
325	256	CapAmdc		280½	+	4½	...	-10.2				
131	64	Balanced Comm Prop		68	+	3	...	-45.1				
162½	122	The Gbl Smaller		138½	+	2	...	-15.8				
534	375½	CT Priv Eq Ord		469½	+	9½	...	-31.1				
89	60	CT Real Estate		76½	+	½	...	-21.2				
89	71	CT UK Hlt		79			...	-5.4				
93	78	CT UK Hlt B		80			...	-4.2				
355	294	CT UK Hlt UNIT		315			...	-5.7				
1335	1135	Brown Advsr US Sm		1182½	+	5	...	-17.0				
1115	888	Brunner		1027½	+	7½	...	-13.7				
4065	3015	Caledonia Inv		3135	+	25	...	-38.1				
173	141	Invesco BondInc		163			...	-2.4				
432	366½	City of Lon It		388½	+	2½	...	1.8				
121	60%	Crystal Amber Fd		66½	+	2	...	-46.6				
594	454	Dunedin Entp		560			...	-9.3				
690	537	Edinburgh IT		621	+	3	...	-8.9				
214	135%	Edn Wwide		140½	+	½	...	-22.5				
336	271	EP Global Opp		315			...	-9.7				
12 month	High	Low	Company	Price (p)				Yld %	Dis(%)	Price (p)	Yld %	Dis(%)
				+/-	%	or Pm						
1223½	928	ICG Ent Tr		1096	+	18	...	-42.4				
486½	373½	Impax Env Mkt		403	+	2	...	-5.1				
374	279	Invesco Asa Tr		331	+	1	...	-8.8				
173	141	Invesco BondInc		163			...	-2.4				
157½	110½	IPST Bal		122½			...	-18.5				
258½	200	IPST Gbl Ed		231			...	-13.7				
101½	88	IPST Managed		90½			...	-17.3				
177	141	IPST UK Eq		155½	-	½	...	-12.2				
495	373½	IP UKSmallerCos		410	+	1½	...	-11.5				
800	657½	JPM American		753	+	4	...	-4.4				
402	222	JPM Asia		345	+	2	...	-9.4				
437	259½	JPM Chinese		256	+	½	...	-10.3				
722	624	JPM Claverhs		650	+	2	...	-10.0				
120½	91	JPM Em Mkt		101½	+	½	...	-10.9				
449	339	JPM Eur disc		381	+	3½	...	-15.2				
142½	107½	JPM GEMI		124½	+	½	...	-10.8				
481	394	JPM G661		456	-	1	...	-1.3				
896	752	JPM Indian		818	+	8	...	-19.4				
353	303	JPM Sgr Sml Co		312	+	1	...	-11.4				
521	416	JPM Japan		478½	+	2½	...	-7.2				
974½	735	JPM Mid Cap		838	+	2	...	-15.6				
98	85½	JPM Multi-Asset G&G		86½	-	4	...	-3.5				
2½	134½	JPM Em En		GBX	+	98½	...					
315	230	JPM Smllr Co		269	-	1	...	-9.2				
244½	180½	Keystone IT		212	-	1	...	-15.4				
871	649	Law Debenture		766	+	5	...	-0.4				
135	99	Lowland		111½	+	¾	...	-11.4				
223	156½	Majedie		189½	+	½	...	-22.0				
358	272½	M Currie Port		337	-	1	...	-				
106½	88	Marwyn Val In		90	-	½	...	-46.4				
222	158½	Mercantile IT		188	+	½	...	-0.4				
606	480	Merchants		517	+	3	...	-0.4				
768	639½	Mid Wynd		688	-	6	...	-1.7				
1102	906	Monk Inv Tst		966	+	9	...	-13.9				
151½	104½	Montanaro Eur Smr		135%	+	1½	...	-10.2				
890	715	Murray Income Trst		811	+	3	...	-10.4				
275½	225½	Murray Trst		241			...	-4.9				
83½	70½	Nb Global Floating		72	-	1	...	-8.6				
384	258	Pacific Assets		369	+	1	...	-5.0				
285½	229½	Pantheon Int		252	+	4	...	-46.3				
3115	2420	Pershing Sq		2840	+	2	...	-35.9				
501½	458½	Personal Assets		461½	+	1	...	-0.9				
2295	1697½	Polar Cap Tech		2175	+	5	...	-14.2				
202	129	Prudential G&B Inf		122½			...	-11.3				

31 21½ Worsley Investors Ltd 28½
40218¾ 34210½ Zurich Fincl 36001½ -

4076	3185%	Sun Life Can	3892½	-	26½	...	9.9
10	5%	Tavistock Inv♦	5½	-	½	...	0.9
2590	1158	TBC Bank Group	2420	+	40	...	7.0
13	3½	Tern♦	4	+	½	...	3.0
29½	15½	Time Finance♦	25½	-	½	...	15.5
1245	900	Volvere♦	1125	...	...	...
38	18½	WH Ireland	23	...	...	12.9	2
31	24	Walker Crips Grp	25½	...	...	72.8	1
3820½	2853%	Wells Fargo	3298½	+	15	...	9.0
1276½	1037%	Westpac	1092½	+	17	...	14.8
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	28½	...	...	89.6	
40218½	34210%	Zurich Fincl	36001½	-	35½	...	14.0
<hr/>							
<h2>Construction & property</h2>							
183½	133	Alumasc♦	137½	-	1½	...	6.9
11	8½	Aseana Props	9½	+	¾	...	-4.8
71½	44	Assura‡	45	+	½	...	9.0
2½	1½	Aukett Swanke♦	1½	...	...	-2.6	1
393½	253%	Balfour Beatty	334½	+	1½	...	15.8
506½	32½	Barratt Devs	409½	+	7½	...	6.4
2500	1586½	Bellway	1970	+	26	...	5.9
4504	3165	Berkeley	3925	+	54	...	10.2
1426	987	Big Yellow Group‡	1035	+	39	...	6.8
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	330	26.8	
295	207	Boot (Henry)	209	11.1	

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High	Low	Company	(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E	High	Low	Company	(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E	High	Low	Company	(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E	High	Low	Company	(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E							
222½	159½	M&G	186½	+	½	58.2	492	297½	Br Land	314½	+	11½	43.1	173½	160½	Smart (J)	166	...	...	4.5	325	192½	Diight	221	...	...	...				
286½	204½	Man	235½	+	10½	9.4	167½	120	Caledonian Tst	150	...	...	29.9	50	30½	Steppe Cement	37½	...	...	8.6	1246½	823½	Electrolux 'B'	1089½	+	12½	8.2			
29	8	Manx Fin*	21½	...	10.9	64½	43½	Cap & Regnl	54½	-	1½	-0.4	128½	85	Taylor Wimpey	102	+	1½	6.7	182½	85½	Feedback	96	-	1½	...								
3	1	Marechale Cap♦	1½	...	0.8	250	2350	Cardiff Prop	2450	...	...	26.6	178½	123	Town Centre	130½	+	1½	5.1	936	426	Good Hsego♦	596	-	17	44.1						
1814½	11685½	Marsh McLn	14436½	+	99½	30.0	25	1½	Carecapital♦	1½	...	0.2	1082½	738	Travis Perkins	804½	+	11½	7.8	4655	2400	Goodwin	4295	...	23.7	2498	1974	Halma	2171	+	7	31.4		
710	530	Mattioli Woods♦	620	...	...	170	106	Clarke T	129	-	4½	9.2	197½	123½	Tritax Big Box Reit	128½	+	2½	2.3	1536	893	Hill & Smith	1536	+	20	36.1						
19½	7½	Metal Tiger♦	9	+	¾	3.5	290½	191½	Countryside Partner	229½	+	14	16.7	95½	50½	Tritax Eurobox	51½	+	¼	...	96½	66	Holders Tech♦	67½	...	4.1	283	184½	Tyman	250	+	5	9.8	
153½	69	Metro Bank	120½	-	1½	-0.8	27½	5½	Craven House♦	13½	...	0.2	1207	791½	Unite	882½	+	25½	10.3	2½	¾	Image Scan♦	2½	+	½	13.8								
1706½	1311½	Nat Asset Bk	1350½	+	27½	13.4	4376	2853	CRH	4264	+	63	17.7	938½	519½	Vistry Group	657½	+	9½	5.7	1680	1071	IMI	1573	+	9	21.4							
309½	212½	NatWest	235½	+	2	9.2	2924	1876	Derwent London	2082	+	36	9.2	165	78½	Warehouse REIT	79½	+	2	1.8	...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...			
341	170%	Numis♦	333	+	1	6.7	4	3	Dolphin Capital♦	3½	...	-2.7	599½	343½	Workspace Grp	483½	+	15½	-7.1	10200	6740	Judges Scientific♦	9200	-	20	46.4								
587½	334½	Oneweavings Bank	334½	-	26½	4.4	30½	22	First Prop♦	24½	725	622½	Wynnstay Propos♦	675	...	4.8	101½	72½	LPA♦	83½	798½	787	Meggit	798½	+	½	...			
652	377½	PayPoint	446½	-	2½	14.0	47½	33½	Fletcher King♦	33½	-	3	...	44	27½	Foxtons Group	36	-	¾	...	527	200½	Melrose	484½	-	7	...							
3½	½	PCF Group♦	7½	+	¼	-0.4	210	145	Galliford Try	210	+	15	46.6	424	252½	Genuit Group	290	+	5	17.5	323½	217	Morgan Advanced	271	-	½	11.4							
684½	506½	Phoenix	535½	+	5½	-6.2	550	335	Gleeson (MJ)	385	+	2	6.0	952	722	Anglo-Eastern	724	+	4	6.6	382½	214	Mpac♦	235	+	22½	6.1							
422½	136½	Provident	225	...	4.2	988½	630½	Grafton	762½	+	10	8.8	306	147½	Animalcare	181½	745	286	MS Intl♦	560	2855	1720	Oxford Inst	2550	-	75	34.8		
1371½	797½	Prudential	1041	-	2½	16.9	297½	205½	Grainger	221½	+	4½	13.7	2070	1237	AB Foods	2050	+	40	33.8	1861½	1038½	Philips El nv	1680½	-	1½	29.8							
2½	½	Quantum Blockchain♦	1½	...	-7.9	619½	409½	Great Portland	411	+	7	-5.1	121	79	Bakkavor Group	96½	+	3	10.0	16	12½	PipeHawk♦	13	...	...	27.6						
122½	76½	Quilter	76½	+	½	54.6	30½	17½	Hammerson	25½	+	1½	-2.7	561	432	Barr (AG)	455	16.1	76	23½	Pressure Tech♦	34½	4338	3342	Renishaw	3670	-	44	20.9	
107	44	Randall & Quilter♦	50	+	¾	74.5	167	101	Harworth Gp	105	-	5½	3.6	57½	24½	Brand Architekts♦	35	...	...	-0.6	31	20½	Renold♦	30½	+	1½	10.7					
2220	1570	Rathbone Grp	1812	-	14	14.0	222	176	James Halstead♦	211	...	...	22.4	3528½	2550½	Brit Amer Tob	2550½	-	10	8.6	158	66½	Rolls-Royce	145½	-	2½	99.0					
7½	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	½	...	1.7	849	591	Keller	800	+	12	...	9.2	936	707½	Britvic	854	+	8	19.3	15½	½	Ross Gp	½	...	...	-1.6					
2050	1370	Rockwood Strategic	1960	-	10	2.8	22	176	James Halstead♦	211	...	...	22.4	2641	1586½	Burberry ‡	2047	+	13	17.6	342½	229½	Rotork	305½	+	1½	33.2					
2570	1905	S & U	2230	-	25	10.5	22	176	James Halstead♦	211	...	...	22.4	198½	123½	C&C Grp	135½	+	1½	-8.1	200	130	SDI Group♦	138	-	2	22.7					
2	½	Sancus Lending Grp♦	¾	...	-0.3	1055	815	Highcroft Invs	815	...	...	3.5	51½	1	Capital Metals♦	1	...	...	-0.2	181½	111	Senior	172½	+	1½	30.0				
56½	40½	Schroder REIT	40½	...	4.3	208½	139½	Ibstock	140½	+	4	18.2	149½	92	Carr's Grp	147½	-	1½	18.2	71½	48	Severfield	69½	+	½	12.4								
604½	358½	Schroders	426½	+	½	1.9	222	176	James Halstead♦	211	...	...	22.4	525	296	Character Grp♦	302	+	4	5.3	14½	½	Six Hundred♦	6½	...	...	36.5			
1304½	920	S St James Place	1079	+	4	20.5	22	176	James Halstead♦	211	...	...	22.4	1640	1070	Churchill China♦	1370	-	25	...	1550	1044½	SKF B	1358	+	22½	10.0					
790½	519½	Stand Chart	664	-	4½	14.8	22	176	James Halstead♦	211	...	...	22.4	2565	1800	Coca Cola HBC	2358	-	5	18.8	300	215	Slingsby (HO)♦	300	...	...	4.9			
12	6½	Starvest♦	7½	...	-1.2	22	176	James Halstead♦	211	...	...	22.4	880	610	Colefax♦	690	...	...	12.2	1797½	1413½	Smiths	1593	+	7	25.3				
47½	23	STM Group♦	47½	+	20	18.2	22	176	James Halstead♦	211	22.4	3340	2568	Cranwick	3234	+	24	17.0	1435	986	Solid State♦	1285	-	25	30.9							
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4076	3185½	Sun Life Can	3892½	-	26½	...	9.9	25	12	Lon & Assoc	13	...	-1.7	329	164	Devo	329	17.8	470	257	Somer Enter♦	272	+	2	6.0							
10	5½	Tavistock Inv♦	5½	-	½	0.9	250½	161½	Londonmetric Property	167½	+	2	3.5	3960	3288	Diageo	3289½	+	1½	25.3	1435	986	Solid State♦	1285	-	25	30.9							
2590	1158	TBC Bank Group	2420	+	40	7.0	62	37	Macau Prop Op	56½	...	-7.3	1090	1070	Mountview	10950	-	150	...	30.0	470	257	Somer Enter♦	272	+	2	6.0							
13	3½	Tem♦	4	+	½	3.0	495½	225½	Marshalls	242	+	4½	8.8	1360	1070	Mountview	10950	-	150	...	30.0	3841	2690	Spectris	3501	+	40	11.5						
29½	15½	Time Finance♦	25½	-	½	15.5	101	74	Michelmersh♦	91½	-	5½	14.5	2025	1392	Morgan Sindall	1792	+	8	8.7	12350	9806	Spirax-Sarco	9936	-	79	31.2							
1245	900	Volvere♦	1125	...	...	...	94½	68½	NewRiver REIT	84½	+	½	-2.9	2025	1392	Morgan Sindall	1792	+	8	8.7	57	26½	Surface Trsfms♦	31	+	2	...				
38	18½	WH Ireland♦	23	...	12.9	2025	1392	Morgan Sindall	1792	+	8	8.7	104½	68½	Evans (M.P.)♦	686	-	4	5.8	103½	68	Finsbury Food♦	95	...	...	11.3						
31	24	Walker Crips Grp	25½	72.8	2025	1392	Morgan Sindall	1792	+	8	8.7	11030	5690	Games Workshop	10920	+	50	...	30.0	103½	1½	Field	31½	9.0						
320½	2853½	Wells Fargo	3296½	+	15	9.0	291	195	Palace Capital	233½	-	3½	11.1	210½	696½	Glanbia	1152½	...	...	28.4	440	345	Thorpe FW	374	...	...	26.0			
1276½	1037½	Westpac	1092½	+	17	14.8	335	260	Panther Securities	295	-	10	2.6	210½	60½	Greenkor	84	+	¾	16.8	3500	3488	Ultra Electrnics	3500	+	6	37.4							
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	28½	...	...	89.6	210½	60½	Greenkor	661	+	3	13.8	29½	17½	Hornby	20½	...	...	9.76	435	286½	Vesuvius	396½	...	...	10.5	
40218½	34210½	Zurich Fincl	36001½	-	35½	...	14.0	210½	60½	Greenkor	245	10.1	1320	958	Nichols♦	1000	-	6	...	150	615	Videndum	615	+	4	11.2						
2075	1586½	Bellway	1970	+	26	5.9	210½	60½	Greenkor	245	...	...	10.1	210½	60½	Greenkor	100	-	6	...	323½	202	Volex	286	+	7	15.6					
4504	3165	Berkeley	3925	+	54	10.2	210½	60½	Greenkor	245	10.1	2021	1328½	Weir	1733½	-	2½	...	29.2	3040	1464	XP Power	1800	-	6	9.6						
1426	987	Big Yellow Group	1035	+	39	6.8	210½	60½	Greenkor	245	10.1	150	91	Zytronic♦	91	+	1	...	150	501½	471	Mediclinic	501	+	½	8.5						
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	330	26.8	210½	60½	Greenkor	245	10.1	3227	2132	Genus	2318	+	60	...	41.2	3227	2132	Genus	2318	+	60	...	41.2					
295	207	Boot (Henry)	209	11.1	210½	60½	Greenkor	245	10.1	1809½	129%	GSK ‡	1318	+	1½	...	15.2	1809½	129%	GSK ‡	1318	+	1½	...	2.6					
2075	1586½	Bellway	1970	+	26	5.9	210½	60½	Greenkor	245	10.1	1200	739	Avon Rubber	835	+	6	...	353½	246½	Haleon	308½	-	2½	...	34.5						
4504	3165	Berkeley	3925	+	54	10.2	210½	60½	Greenkor	245	10.1	360½	268½	Babcock	272½	+	½	16.4	1202	739	Avon Rubber	835	+	6	...	20	½	Allergy Therap	15½	+	½	-2.0
1426	987	Big Yellow Group	1035	+	39	6.8	210½	60½	Greenkor	245	...	...	10.1	1032	714	BA																

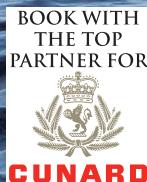
12 month				Price				12 month				Price				12 month				Price				12 month																								
High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E	High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E	High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E	High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E	High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E														
4	2½	Omega Diags♦	2½+	¼	-	-11	Daily Mail‡	270	-	2½	10.3	14½	4½	Edenville Energy♦	8½-	¼	-	-0.5	½	...	Sunrise Resources♦	-9.4	239	101½	RPS Group	221	-	1	-	145	112½	K3 Business Tch♦	126	-	-	-2.1								
10½	4½	Ovca Bio♦	6	...	-	-17	DCD Media‡	100	-	30	5.0	1½	½	Empyrean Energy♦	¾-	...	-	-5.6	½	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	-2.5	1159	722½	RS Group‡	722½-	7	...	18.3	165½	1023½	LG Electronics	1628½+	77½	-	4.3								
562	297	Oxford Biomedica	416	-	4	18.7	58½	43	Ebiquity♦	47	...	-	-	2184	1461	Endeavour	1848	+	19	27.5	½	½	Thor Mining♦	½-	...	-1.4	22	16	RTC Group♦	18	...	-	-	½	½	Location Sciences‡	½	...	-2.3									
5	7½	Physiomics♦	%	...	-	-3.7	1971	643	Future	759	+	24	13.0	31½	14	EnQuest	15½+	¼	-	1.0	5238½	3829½	Total Eng SE	4436½+	22½	-	10.1	408½	227½	RWS Hldgs‡	233	+	5	21.3	532	267½	Micro Focus Intl	532	+	1½	-5.6							
8½	3½	Proteome Scies♦	7½	...	-	-	1400	930	GlobalData♦	1225	...	-	60.6	7½	2½	Eurasia Mining♦	3	...	-	-	½	...	Tower Resources♦	-0.7	430	365	Science Group♦	410	-	10	18.8	62	44	MTI Wireless♦	44	...	-	14.6								
6008	5556	Reckitt Benckiser†	5736	-	36	-	120½	50	Hyve Group	120½	...	-	-	5½	22½	Tullow Oil	29½+	1½	-	3.0	188½	136½	Serco	152½-	¾	-	6.2	55½	17½	Nanoco Gp	18	...	-	-	55½	17½	Location Sciences‡	½	...	-2.3								
63½	31	RUA Life Sciences♦	31	...	-	-3.0	196	69½	IG Design Grp♦	137½	...	-	20.1	175	84½	Ferrexpo	87½+	1½	-	0.6	57½	27½	Smiths News	44½-	½	-	4.3	116½	74	Netcall♦	102	...	-	-	116½	74	Networks	42	...	-	-							
1314½	984½	Smith & Neph	175	+	4½	26.6	73½	50½	Informa‡	712	+	2½	-	968	597½	Fresnillo	613½+	10	...	14.5	290	135	URU Metals♦	150	...	-	4.8	3596	2452	Smurfit Kappa	2678	+	30	22.2	46½	25½	Staffline Gp♦	26½-	1½	-	20.7	25½	10½	Online Blockchain♦	15½	-	-	-8.0
250	20	Spirre Hare	212½	+	1	-	90	55½	ITV	67½+	1½	-	7.2	G3 Exploration‡	28	...	-	-2.6	½	½	Vast Res♦	½-	...	-	-	484½	335	SThree	335	...	-	10.8	119	80½	Oxford Metrics♦	108	-	1½	46.9							
30½	6½	Syngeneon♦	6½-	1½	-	-0.3	10½	4½	Jaywing♦	4½+	¼	-	-	39	14½	Galantas Gold♦	15½-	...	-	-2.6	Victoria Oil&Gas‡	3½-	...	-1.8	137½	95	Synectics♦	107½+	1½	-	-	8½	3½	Parity♦	3½	...	-	-5.0								
70	42	Tissue Regenix♦	52½	...	-	-	4½	1½	Live Company Gp‡	2	...	-	-0.4	7½	2	GCM Resources♦	2	...	-	-1.7	3½	1½	Westmount Engry♦	2½-	...	-0.4	30	21½	Thruvision Group♦	30	+	2	-	41½	28½	Pennant Intl♦	36½	...	-	-								
46½	11½	Totally♦	11½-	1½	-	18.4	Mediaest‡	-	-4.5	48	18½	Gem Diamonds	19½+	½	-	2.0	226	104½	Wood Grp (J)	133½	...	-	-5.4	89	35	Tribal‡	39½	...	-	12.3	63½	39½	Playtech	570	+	1	5.9							
435	295	Tristel♦	355	...	-	73.2	4½	1½	Mirada♦	1½-	1½	-	-	52½	1½	Getech♦	9½-	¼	-	-2.2	5½	½	Woodbois♦	¾-	...	-3.1	87	49	Vianet♦	86	...	-	-	39½	32½	QinetiQ	336½-	3½	-	26.2								
20	6½	ValiRx♦	6½-	1½	-	-	10½	4½	Yaywing♦	4½+	¼	-	-	578	401½	Glencore	437	+	3½	-	16.0	½	½	Global Petrol♦	½-	...	-2.1	900	580	Vp‡	580	+	2½	-	109	20½	RM	83½-	2½	-	16.6							
105	54½	Accsys Tech♦	87	+	3½	-	10½	107½	117½	News Corp A	1532½+	15½	-	25.0	1332½	107½	Gold Fields	1071½+	30½	-	16.5	7½	3½	Zephyr Energy♦	3½-	¼	-4.0	2½	1	Westminster♦	1½-	...	-1.9	92½	65½	Sage	904½+	1½	-	34.6								
4625½	328½	BASF	3883½+	51½	-	7.6	1706½	1202½	News Corp B	1546	+	13½	-	25.2	1112	755	Next 15 Comms♦	799	-	25	-	8½	2½	Goldstone Res‡	2½-	...	-9.9	149½	95½	Shaftesbury Cap	111½+	2½	-	32.8	139	47	Shearwater Grp♦	47	-	2	-	29.1						
5349½	405½	Bayer DM50	4244½+	23½	-	49.5	995½	753½	Pearson	819	-	¾	-	39.1	107	75	Photo-Me	107	+	5	-	18.6	96½	70	Griffin Mining♦	79½-	1	-	8.7	5110	2330	4imprint Grp	4405	-	55	-	74.3	54	31½	Smartspcs S'ware	38½	...	-	4.0				
180	46½	Biome Tech♦	132½	...	-	-4.4	3½	1½	Byotrol♦	1½-	...	-	-	4½	2	Primorus Inv♦	2½-	...	-	-4.6	260½	114½	Gulf Keystone‡	116½+	1½	-	7.2	657½	460	Andrews Sykes♦	642½+	5	-	20.5	1469	1071	Softcat	1355	-	4	-	26.5						
7	6½	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6½-	...	-	-9.0	198	108½	Quarto	172½	...	-	9.6	25½	5½	Harland & Wolff Grp♦	9%-	¼	-	0.7	12½	½	Asimilr Group♦	1	...	-	-	5874	3720	Ashtead	5232	+	30	-	25.4	286½	162½	Spirent Comms	169½+	½	-	15.8						
79	50½	Coats Grp	64	-	1½	-	14.3	120½	66½	Reach	70%-	½	-	78.5	94½	51½	Hochschild	72½+	1	-	7.0	168	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	154½-	3½	-	-	7½	39	AssetCo♦	39	...	-0.2	112½	40	Card Factory	90	+	½	-	112½	40	Card Factory	90	+	½	-
748	524	Croda	5638	+	98	-	24.5	1120	575	REACT Grp♦	1½-	...	-	-	2722	2157	Relx	2442	-	32	-	32.2	351½	187½	Hunting PLC	257	+	7½	-	6.5	55	38½	Avisen♦	50	...	-	-	165	81	Triad Grp	155	...	-	17.0				
1120	575	Cropper (James)♦	845	...	-	25.7	25	11	Hardie♦	12	...	-	-2.3	663	445½	Rightmove	517½+	¾	-	29.2	106½	14½	iGas Energy♦	14½+	¾	-	-0.7	148	117	Beigbies Traynor♦	134	-	½	-	106½	80	Tracsis	895	-	5	-							
129	87½	Elementis	105	+	1½	-	21.5	2373	167½	Johnson Mat†	1711	+	13	-	21.5	115	65	SpaceandPeople♦	71½	...	-	-	315	221	STV Group	233½-	½	-	5.7	225	1583	CVS Group♦	1915	-	20	-	53.6	120½	1012	Gamma Comms	1092	-	20	-	19.7			
25	11	Hardie♦	12	...	-	-2.3	2373	167½	Johnson Mat†	1711	+	13	-	21.5	115	65	SpaceandPeople♦	71½	...	-	-	315	221	STV Group	233½-	½	-	5.7	225	1583	CVS Group	1915	-	20	-	53.6												
1705	1180	Mondi	1222½+	12½	-	9.3	110	77½	Robinson♦	92½	...	-	-	10½	22½	Relx	2442	-	32	-	32.2	351½	187½	Hunting PLC	257	+	7½	-	6.5	55	38½	Avisen♦	50	...	-	-	165	81	Triad Grp	155	...	-	17.0					
368½	241½	DS Smith	277	+	½	-	15.7	2273	202½	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2626½+	13½	-	14.4	250½	67	ITM Power♦	67½+	½	-	-	106½	14½	iGas Energy♦	14½+	¾	-	-0.7	148	117	Beigbies Traynor♦	134	-	½	-	148	117	Beigbies Traynor♦	134	-	½	-						
727	435	Swire Pacific	590½+	2½	-	...	10½	2530½	2025½	Takeda Pharm	2432½+	1½	-	13.6	105½	72½	WPP	825	+	9½	-	15.7	105½	72½	WPP	825	+	9½	-	15.7	105½	72½	WPP	825	+	9½	-	15.7										
19	6½	Symp Environ♦	7	+	½	-	...	10½	237	Wilmington	274	...	-	17.4	105½	72½	Zinc Media♦	92½+	3	-	-5.8	356	237	Wilmington	274	...	-	-	105½	72½	Zinc Media♦	92½+	3	-	-3.0													
236½	71	Synthomer	82½+	4½	-	1.7	105½	215½	Domino's Pizza	284½+	1½	-	14.5	105½	215½	Domino's Pizza	284½+	1½	-	-	105½	215½	Domino's Pizza	284½+	1½	-	-	105½	215½	Domino's Pizza	284½+	1½	-	-3.0														
350½	202½	215½	Domino's Pizza	284½+	1½	-																																										

16	...	...	◆ AIM company; ▲ Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ♦ Ex script; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; ... No significant data.
7%	...	16.8	Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav
...	Dis or Prm share price by Morningstar
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... 17.5
2 ... 18.0
*3/
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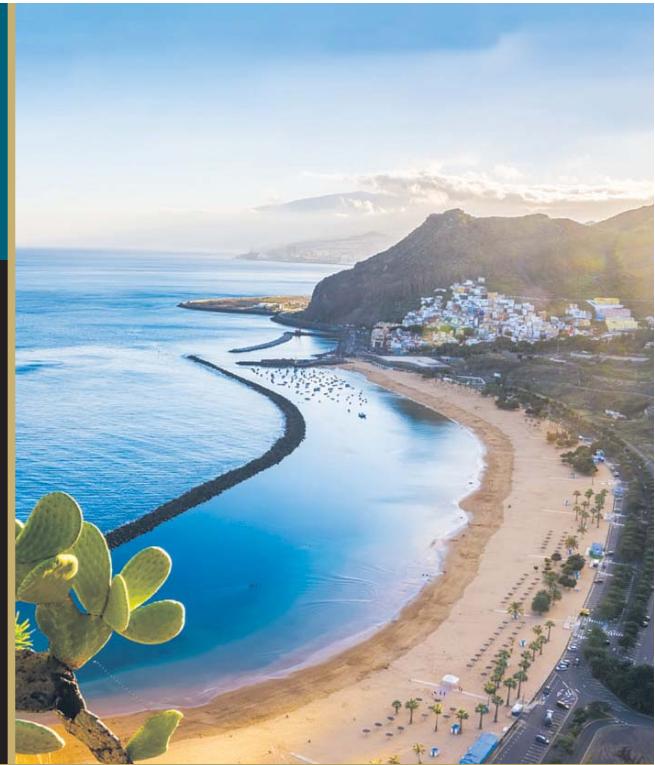
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Irish artist who captured the Celtic Tiger era
Graham Knuttel
Page 44



Obituaries

Captain John Kelly

Influential naval aviator who distinguished himself in Borneo and had a profound impact on the outcome of the Falklands conflict

Flying under the trajectory of British gunfire, Captain John Kelly watched the shells fall on Argentine positions around the capital of the Falkland Islands while his helicopter helped to keep the batteries supplied with ammunition.

As second in command — or executive officer — of the amphibious assault ship HMS Fearless, Kelly was in the air only as a last resort. He had not flown on operations for more than ten years, but the ship's helicopter squadron was short of pilots and Kelly volunteered.

For three days he flew with 846 Naval Air Squadron as co-pilot of a Sea King as the battle for Stanley reached its climax in June 1982.

His role in the final days of the conflict — two months after the Argentinians had invaded the British territory in the South Atlantic — was only one of several ways in which Kelly influenced the outcome of events in the Falklands.

As a staff officer with the directorate of naval operational requirements at the Ministry of Defence in the mid-1970s, he helped to persuade the designers to change the specifications for the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible. Instead of a flat deck, the ship was built with a ski jump, which improved the performance of its Harrier jump-jets: the more efficient take-off allowed them to carry more weapons and fly further. The Harrier would provide the

He persuaded designers to give Invincible a ski jump for its Harrier jets

air cover crucial to victory in the Falklands.

In 1981, as executive officer of Fearless, he helped to persuade John Nott, the defence secretary, to reverse a decision to scrap the navy's amphibious assault ships. Nott visited Fearless and was sufficiently impressed to change his mind. Without them, Britain would not have been able to retake the islands.

After the invasion, Kelly received a signal in the early hours of April 3 ordering the ship to prepare for war. He had been scheduled to take up another post, and had less than half a crew because most were on leave after duties in Norway and the Caribbean. However, he calmly organised the provision of stores and ammunition — and the rebricking of one boiler — with Fearless sailing in haste on April 6. The ship would become the command centre for the British landings.

According to Rear-Admiral Jeremy Larken, the captain of Fearless at that time, Kelly helped to create a ship that "was both efficient and happy" and "notably successful in meeting the most unusual demands placed upon her".

He described Kelly, a committed Christian, as a "tough man". He had a "well developed sense of emotional intelligence" and "a great way with people; a great way with sailors. He was hugely influential without anyone knowing he was there".

In an audio history recorded for the Imperial War Museum (IWM) in 2016, Kelly described the fierce air attacks on British ships in San Carlos Water — "the navy had been taking it on the chin



Kelly co-piloted a Falklands Sea King. Top, being shaved on HMS Fearless while "crossing the line" south in 1982. He led Wessex helicopters in Borneo in the Sixties

for five days and lost several ships" — as well as the tension as they waited for decisive moves on land.

The descriptions of his helicopter sorties are vivid. He flew four hours of operations on June 10 after being recalled as a pilot; seven hours on the second day; and nine hours, one in darkness, on June 12 as the British assaults went in on the mountains around Stanley.

"I can remember picking up ammunition for the gun batteries, and moving it forward," said Kelly. "We just threw out the rule book, putting as many shells, physically, as we could get in the net, never mind the weight, with the helicopter staggering off sideways, until it got transitional lift... and then eventually got going."

Kelly had started flying in 1960 after graduating from the naval college in Dartmouth and serving in a frigate and a minesweeper. He trained on jets but switched to helicopters. "It was the best decision I made," he said, "because I joined the helicopter world at the

beginning of the Sixties just as it was about to mushroom."

He completed his commando flying training in 1962 and worked with the SAS in the Brecon Beacons. He then served with 848 squadron in the commando carrier HMS Bulwark, which sailed for the Far East after its pilots had helped to tag elephants in Kenya.

In the spring of 1965 he was posted to Borneo, part of the former British colony of Malaysia, where an armed insurgency, supported by Russia and China, was being directed from Jakarta. The three-year conflict is known as the "Indonesia Confrontation".

A young lieutenant, Kelly was one of 25 mostly inexperienced pilots serving with 848 who embarked in the aircraft carrier HMS Albion off the Cornish coast. He later led a flight of four Wessex helicopters deep into the Borneo jungle, commanding the detachment from a forward base at Nanga Gaat. The crews were nicknamed the "Junglies".

One of his former pilots, Captain Iain Mackenzie, said: "He led by example



and quickly moulded an efficient team that operated in the most demanding and hazardous conditions — high temperatures, humidity and frequent fierce tropical storms.

"His pilots had to fly hundreds of miles over dense jungle using the most elementary of maps without navigation aids, flying troops and supplies in and out of small, tight clearings hacked out of the jungle."

Years later, Kelly told the IWM: "It was the greatest adventure of my life, earning the Queen's shilling, flying around Borneo, doing something I never imagined I would do. It was unique for me."

Kelly was appointed MBE for his "outstanding leadership" in Borneo, and was later awarded the OBE for his service in the Falklands.

Among his many roles after returning from Borneo, Kelly commanded 846 and 847 squadrons in Britain and Malaysia, and was dispatched to the Ganges Delta to undertake flood relief work. He was promoted in 1973 and took command of the frigate HMS Llandaff.

On one occasion, his ship was moored in Mombasa when a Russian destroyer came into port with an admiral on board. As the senior British officer, Kelly called on his Cold War adversary and talked to him through an interpreter.

Kelly said: "He told me that, 'In my navy, anybody can become an admiral, you only have to work hard and have ability'. So I looked him in the eye and said the same was true in my navy. My grandfather was a coal miner, my father was a school master and I'm in command of one of Her Majesty's ships — his jaw dropped. He couldn't believe that the captain of a ship in a capitalist country could have had such a humble background."

After leaving the frigate, he took a fellowship in international studies at Cambridge before serving as a staff officer in Whitehall. On return from the Falklands, he was promoted and posted to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Belgium. He later held several influential positions at the Ministry of Defence, including director of naval security.

John Stuart Kelly was born in Shef-

Register

field in 1938, the son of John and Anne Kelly, who also had a daughter, Patricia. While both parents were teachers, his father was an accomplished footballer who had been presented to Hitler during a tour of Germany. He returned to Britain convinced there would be war.

Indeed, John was fortunate to survive childhood because of the conflict his father predicted. A German incendiary bomb hit the family home in Sheffield and fell through John's cot. His father smothered the device with sand.

The family moved regularly, living in North Yorkshire, Leicestershire and Buckinghamshire. After passing his 11-plus, John attended the Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe, where he excelled at maths and physics, captained the 1st XV and was head of house.

He married Sue Watson, a dancer, in 1966 after meeting her while on a flying course in North Yorkshire and following her career, driving to shows across Europe. After their marriage, she became a dance teacher.

The couple had three children: Jeremy and Oliver, who pursued careers in finance, and Sophie, who works in fashion. When his wife suffered a stroke in recent years, Kelly dedicated himself to her recovery. She survives him along with their children.

They created a home in the village of Martin, Hampshire, where Kelly was church treasurer and played a leading role in the local British Legion. He enjoyed watching sport and loved classical music. He had a passion for classic cars — he drove his daughter to her wedding in a 1962 Alvis TD21 — and maps.

According to his son Jeremy, "He loved planning family holidays and plotting our best route on a map laid out on the kitchen table. Typically, when his high level of enthusiasm was not met by the rest of the family, he would defend his diligent planning with the wonderful phrase, 'Time in reconnaissance is seldom wasted'. Once the much-planned odyssey actually started, the family would then inevitably hear his other favourite phrase, 'A plan is a basis for change', as a last-minute variation was thrown in."

He also retained a passion for HMS Fearless. In 2007, he watched as the ship was towed out of Portsmouth Harbour to the breakers' yard. "It was a very emotional day," he said. Fifteen years later, on the 40th anniversary of the Falklands conflict, he led the production of an anthology celebrating the ship's contribution to the British victory.

Recalling those events, Larken, his former captain, said: "As my key 'alter-ego', John Kelly never failed to raise and discuss issues, not least when he reckoned I had got it wrong, but I don't recall us ever failing to reach agreement."

Captain John Kelly, OBE, naval officer, was born on April 16, 1938. He died of skin cancer on June 19, 2023, aged 85



Register

Graham Knuttel

Idiosyncratic Irish artist who depicted the colourful cast of the Celtic Tiger era and eschewed a career in Hollywood

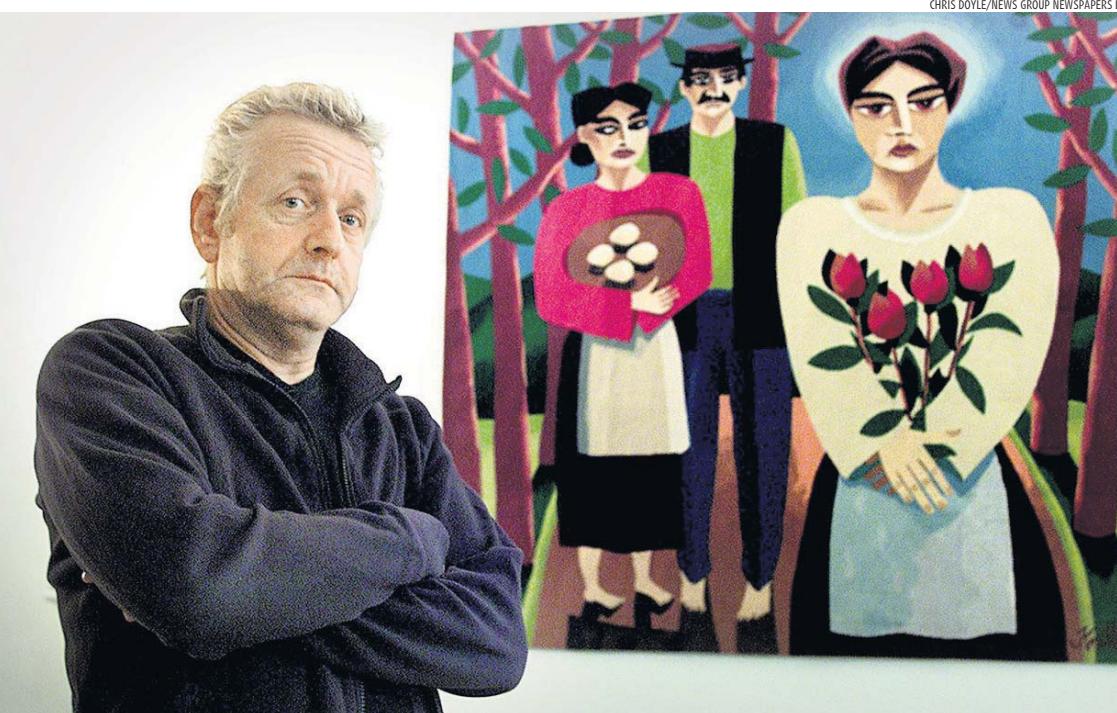
As an artist Graham Knuttel hated his "Celtic Tiger" label. However, his distaste for what he called the "money wallahs" did not hinder his receiving regular commissions from Ireland's rich, among them the bankers he regularly vilified. The more he showed his public opprobrium for the new Irish moneyed class, the more swiftly the private commissions seemed to come his way.

A devotee of the novels of Flann O'Brien, he was fond of quoting the author's definition of banking as "the world's second oldest profession but not half as respectable as the oldest". Knuttel described Ireland's financial crisis in 2008 as "the inevitable consequence of idiot bankers throwing money around like snuff at a wake".

His large colourful canvases often cruelly pilloried Ireland's new rich in unflattering, angular, sinister poses, sometimes depicting them as gangsters with their molls, lurking redundantly but always menacingly in the background. He reserved his particular ire for politicians — he painted them as pantomime characters or Rabelaisian versions of Mr Punch.

American, not Irish patronage, would earn him an international reputation as "portraitist to the stars", another label he despised. He spent a brief period in Hollywood in the 1990s but quickly tired of it. Sylvester Stallone's invitation and his being a cousin of Cary Grant meant he enjoyed an access-all-areas pass to the social life of Los Angeles. Yet Knuttel soon became disillusioned with the fickle denizens of the film studios. He found many of his clients "pushy", and others the good-looking Dubliner dismissed as "overly demanding, not least in the area of the bedchamber".

Rejecting the financial temptations of LA, he returned to Ireland and set up his studio in a large Georgian house in central Dublin, painstakingly rescued from a ruined state. Its proximity to the city's seedy nightlife delighted him. From there he made frequent excursions to nearby raffish drinking clubs, often bringing home the remnants of hardcore drinkers in the early hours. However, by 6.30am, the house was cleared of revellers and Knuttel would go to his studio to paint, remaining undisturbed, as he told anyone who sought to interrupt him, "until the Angelus bell sounds at 6pm".



Knuttel with his tapestry St Thérèse de Lisieux. Frightening experiences with his grandmother inspired some of his works

His portfolio of portraits of the famous, including Frank Sinatra, Robert De Niro, Sylvester Stallone and Peter O'Toole, combined with the accessibility of his work to a non-academic audience, attracted a certain amount of snobbery and condemnation from the more conservative art establishment. He cared nothing for their opinions.

Graham Knuttel was born in Dublin in 1954, the third of three children of Frederick Knuttel and his wife Margaret (née) Westley. They arrived in Ireland from Bedford in 1947. His father came from a German Jewish family who had settled in England after the Great War. Frederick was a lifelong atheist with an absolute antipathy towards clergymen and nuns; Graham's mother was a Unitarian from Northampton who enjoyed singing in the local church choir, much to her husband's annoyance. Frederick had a distinguished career with the RAF, which did not endear him to the postwar mood of Eamon de Valera's Catholic rural Eden and staunchly republican

Ireland. Graham was educated at one of Dublin's most prestigious private schools, Sandford Park. Apart from an interest in art lessons and the guidance of a sympathetic English master, his time at the school could best be characterised as near-permanent truancy.

After graduating from the Dún Laoghaire College of Art, he briefly became a butler to an Anglo-Irish family in Co Wicklow. His efforts were so disastrous that he refused to visit Co Wicklow for years after his dismissal. He then turned to sculpture, and his metal and papier-mâché heads and mobiles began attracting art collectors' attention in Dublin.

Women were central to Knuttel's life but not, he claimed, to his art. "I find myself happily and frequently at the mercy of beautiful women," he once told a friend, "but I don't particularly want to live with them." Yet his work is filled with female figures: lusty Botticelli types, greedy Celtic Tiger handbag-wielding haridans with voluminous hair. "Lips so apt for deeds of passion, hair to stifle a man's breath" was the line he borrowed

from WH Auden to describe these omnipresent Medusas.

Terrifying experiences with his grandmother later inspired some of his works. She regularly locked him in his father's cavernous wardrobe when he was four. "She cackled like an old witch and clawed at the back of my neck with her long fingernails," he recalled. He depicted her as a malevolent Judy in a dark portrait, which, to his delight, hung for many years outside the gentlemen's lavatory in a fashionable Dublin restaurant.

At 26, he had a daughter, Kate, with the sculptor Anna Mcleod. A ten-year relationship with Rachel Strong followed. She, herself a talented painter, featured in many of his gentler but darker portraits of the 1980s; the paintings caught the sense of isolation she felt through her addiction to heroin. Knuttel stood by her through her imprisonment for drug-related offences. He loved her until she died in 2003. By then, she was clean of the drug, but her addiction ruined her body, health and beauty.

His next relationship surprised many

of his friends. Gayle Killilea was the granddaughter of a founding member of De Valera's Fianna Fáil Party. Blonde, vivacious, and a gossip columnist for an Irish Sunday newspaper, she was the antithesis of his earlier girlfriends. She and Knuttel were regulars in the cocktail bar of the Shelbourne Hotel, a hangout for the Celtic Tiger set. It was described by a local wag "as a place where women with a past met men with no future". Their three-year relationship ended amicably.

Like many artists, Knuttel had an uneasy relationship with alcohol. After a drinking bout with John Hurt and Lord Snowdon, he declared Snowdon a hero because he "poured claret by the pint" at eleven o'clock in the morning. Challenged to drink two Tremblement de Terre and stay upright, he drank six. The lethal fin-de-siècle French concoction was favoured by the artist Toulouse-Lautrec. The traditional recipe is equal parts gin, cognac and absinthe. Toulouse-Lautrec insisted on adding a glass of claret to the mix. When asked how he felt after quaffing it in such quantity, Knuttel responded, "I don't know what it did for Lautrec, but the ground hasn't quaked for me yet."

He fiercely protected his work, and when imitators began selling copies of his prints, he turned successfully to the courts, though he shied away from the publicity this brought. "I'm a very private man. I wouldn't say I like opening my kimono in public. I may appear a terrible cynic and a bit of a bastard, but it's just a pose to disguise crippling shyness."

A man with a nuanced cast of mind, Knuttel was well-read, especially in the German literary masters from whom he received great comfort in his later, less hectic years. His health began to fail last year, and he received a kidney transplant from his wife, Ruth Matthers, whom he had married in 2012. Ruth survives him together with his daughter Kate. Knuttel also received a liver transplant. He described his situation in a message to a friend as "surviving on vast quantities of steroids, bloated like Elvis, peeing like a donkey, and, like Mandy Rice-Davies, I'm on a slow decline towards respectability".

Graham Knuttel, artist, was born on March 10, 1954. He died after a long period of illness on May 27, 2023, aged 69

Bob Fernley

Formula One executive who spent a decade running the Force India team and became a prominent character in the sport

When the controversial Indian billionaire Vijay Mallya sent a text to say he had bought a Formula One team, Bob Fernley's answer was succinct. "Couldn't be more pleased for you." What Fernley did not know was that Mallya expected him to run the team.

Known as Spyker, the team was the worst in Formula One: it had no points, no money and no hope but Fernley threw himself into the job, renaming the team Force India and immediately firing all the team's most senior executives to find himself sitting on a floor of empty offices. Each day was a battle between stringent finances and the competition with Formula One's richest teams, which swept up most of the sport's prize money, leaving the lesser squads fighting over scraps.

Fernley learnt how tight things were financially when he arrived at the 2010 Belgian Grand Prix to find the team's garages locked by bailiffs demanding payment of a £90,000 bill from a German supplier. In the middle of the Ardennes Forest at the Spa-Francorchamps track, with only hours until the racing com-

menced, Fernley turned to Bernie Ecclestone, renowned as Formula One's ringmaster and chief executive, for help. Ecclestone called in the grand prix organisers, who went around each turnstile collecting the ticket money. They brought it back and Ecclestone and Fernley counted out the cash and handed it over to the bailiffs, who duly unlocked the garage.

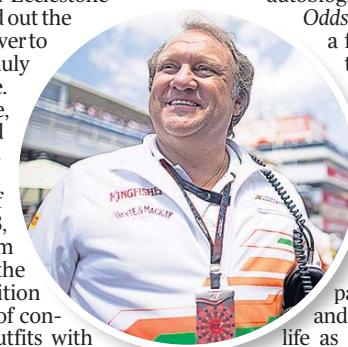
In due course, Fernley guided Force India to its first pole position within two years of taking over in 2008, and by 2016, the team was the "best of the rest", in fourth position in the league table of constructors behind outfits with budgets as much as three times greater and ahead of legendary racing names such as McLaren and Williams.

By then, Fernley was not only a team leader but a vigorous campaigner against what he saw as the iniquitous

distribution of the sport's income. In spite of the sometimes very public spats, Fernley remained respected and much liked throughout the paddock.

Robert George Fernley thought of himself as an underdog, naming his autobiography *Racing Against the Odds*, because he was born in a flat over a shoe shop in the centre of Stockport in 1953. Within a few months, his family had moved into a council house and Fernley was showing promise as a teenage footballer, interesting Manchester United among others. His true passion, though, was cars and he started his working life as a mechanical engineer

before becoming a car salesman, soon owning his own showroom. (He would later help to finance engineering scholarships at the National Centre for Motorsport for those from similar backgrounds to his.)



Two chance meetings changed his life: Bobby Howlings, an ex-racing driver once thought to have been the getaway driver at the Great Train Robbery, convinced him to start a partnership buying and selling Formula One cars. Then in October, 1981, Mallya, heir to the Kingfisher business fortune, arrived in Britain wanting a Formula One car to race in India. He took a 1978 Ensign from Fernley's showroom and then insisted Fernley organise his team to race in India. They won every race they entered.

The success in India ran in parallel with Fernley's race programme at home in Britain, where he steered Jim Crawford to the 1982 British Formula One Championship, also in one of Fernley's Ensign cars. But Fernley was ambitious for more and a year later set off for the USA, competing first in CanAm before progressing to the Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART) series and the Indianapolis 500.

Once the sponsor money for racing in America ran out, Fernley returned to the UK to become a travelling entrepreneur, setting up fish farms in Den-

mark, selling carbon fibre to the Chinese, building a superyacht and running a hotel chain in the USA before owning a stately home, Bush Hall, near Hatfield, which he ran as a hotel; it was frequented by Dame Barbara Cartland.

After selling Bush Hall, Fernley bought an apartment in Bangkok with his wife, Audrey, whom he married in 1992. She survives him with his daughter Lisa Marie, a physiotherapist, and his stepsons Mark, a company director, and Robert, a restaurateur and consultant. He would split his time between Thailand and Hertfordshire — until the fateful call from Mallya. There followed a turbulent decade in Formula One.

Even after Mallya sold Force India in 2018, Fernley was called back by McLaren to make an attempt on the Indianapolis 500. It was a less than happy experience, with Fernando Alonso unable to qualify for the race, and it signalled Fernley's last hurrah in motor racing.

Bob Fernley, motor racing executive, was born on January 7, 1953. He died of bladder cancer on June 30, 2023, aged 70

Law Report

No claim for financial relief against deceased former spouse's estate following foreign divorce

Supreme Court

Published July 12, 2023

Unger and another (in substitution for Hasan) v Ul-Hasan (deceased) and another

Before Lord Hodge, Lord Hamblen, Lord Leggatt, Lord Burrows and Lord Stephens [2023] UKSC 22 Judgment June 28, 2023

The power of a court in England and Wales to order financial relief after an overseas divorce could only be exercised as between living parties to a former marriage. Where, therefore, a man against whom such proceedings had been instigated died before the claim could be adjudicated upon, his former wife could not continue the claim against his estate.

The Supreme Court so held in dismissing a "leapfrog" appeal brought, pursuant to leave granted under section 13 of the Administration of Justice Act 1969, by Nafisa Hasan (the wife) against the order of Mr Justice Mostyn ([2022] Fam 1) by which he refused to allow her claim against her former husband, Mahmud Ul-Hasan (the husband), under Part III of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984, to be continued against his estate following his death.

Before the hearing of the appeal before the Supreme Court the wife also died and her personal representatives, Adeela Unger and Richard de Unger, were substituted as appellants.

Michael Horton KC, Greg Williams and Srishti Suresh for the appellants; **Tim Amos KC, Andrzej Bojarski and Joe Rainer** (all acting pro bono) for the husband's executor, Lamya Al Shaibah.

LORD STEPHENS, with whom Lord Hodge, Lord Hamblen and Lord Burrows agreed, said that the first issue in the appeal was whether on the true construction of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 (the 1984 Act) read with the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (the 1973 Act), the power of a court in England and Wales to order financial relief after an overseas divorce could only be exercised as between living parties to a former marriage.

If the court did have the power to order financial relief despite the death of one of the parties to the marriage, then the second issue was whether a claim for financial relief under the 1984 Act was a cause of action which survived against the estate of a deceased spouse under section 1(l) of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1934.

The appeal concerned a wife's application under section 12(l) of the 1984 Act for financial relief in England and Wales after an overseas divorce in Pakistan. On such an application, under Part III and pursuant to section 17 of the 1984 Act, the court could make any one or more of the orders which it could make under Part II of the 1973 Act if a decree of divorce in respect of the marriage had been granted in England and Wales.

That meant the court was able to make orders including any of the financial provision orders mentioned in section 23(l) of the 1973 Act or any of the property adjustment orders mentioned in section 24(l) of that Act.

Some three weeks prior to the

final hearing to determine the wife's application, the husband, then aged 81 and domiciled in Pakistan, died in Dubai.

As the husband had not died domiciled in England and Wales, it was not open to the wife to apply to the court under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 on the ground that the disposition of the husband's estate effected by his will or the law relating to intestacy was not such as to make reasonable financial provision for her.

Accordingly, the only route for the wife to obtain financial relief in England and Wales was pursuant to the unadjudicated Part III claim under the 1984 Act. That route would only be open to her if her claim survived the death of the husband and could be continued against his estate under section 1(l) of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1934.

Hence the issue for the court was whether, where one of the parties to an application under Part III for financial relief had died, further proceedings could or could not be taken.

To arrive at the true construction of the relevant statutory provisions in the appeal, it was appropriate to consider the legal context consisting of relevant judicial decisions at the time at which the 1973 and 1984 Acts were passed, together with the legal context when the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 was passed.

Judicial decisions since the mid-19th century had consistently construed matrimonial legislation as creating personal

rights and obligations which ended with the death of a party to the marriage and could not be pursued against the deceased's estate.

Parliament was presumed to have knowledge of that established orthodox understanding when enacting the 1973 and 1984 Acts.

That orthodox understanding was also to be found in the provisions which parliament had enacted in the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975. Section 14(l) of that Act made special inheritance provision for a former spouse prevented from obtaining a share of the family assets in matrimonial proceedings by the death of the other spouse.

Special provision was required because, in accordance with the orthodox understanding, the supervening death of the other spouse would prevent a court making an order for financial provision in matrimonial proceedings brought or continued against the estate of a deceased spouse.

Finally, his Lordship carried out a textual analysis of the words which parliament had chosen when enacting the 1984 and 1973 Acts, which also led to the conclusion that where one of the parties to an application under Part III of the 1984 Act for financial relief had died, further proceedings could not be taken as the relief was purely personal relief available only during the joint lives of the parties to the marriage.

It followed that the appellant's submission that a party to a marriage could continue a claim under the 1984 Act read

with the 1973 Act, despite the death of the other party to the marriage, would be a major reform involving radical change to long-established principles.

Furthermore, the reform would involve questions of policy including its impact on the law of succession and potentially also on the law of insolvency. Although there might be a case for reform that was a matter for parliament. It was not for the courts to distort the meaning of the words of the relevant statutes to achieve such a radical reform.

Accordingly, on the true construction of the statutory provisions in the 1984 Act and the 1973 Act where one of the parties to an application under Part III of the 1984 Act for financial relief had died further proceedings could not be taken. The power of a court in England and Wales to order financial relief after an overseas divorce could only be exercised as between living parties to a former marriage.

As, on their true construction, the statutory provisions in the 1984 Act and the 1973 Act created personal rights and obligations which could only be adjudicated between living parties, the issue as to whether a claim for financial relief under the 1984 Act was a cause of action which survived against the estate of a deceased spouse under section 1(l) of the 1934 Act did not arise for determination.

Lord Leggatt, with whom Lord Hodge, Lord Hamblen and Lord Burrows also agreed, delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: **Dawson Cornwell; Expatriate Law** (acting pro bono).

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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HAVE I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1.9 (NIV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

BIRKBY on 3rd July 2023 to Vicki (née Elliott) and Dominic, a daughter, Millie Victoria Eleanor, sister to Mary.

BRETT on 28th May 2023 to Judith (née Templeman) and Graham, a son, Adam John Christian, brother to James. Deo gratias.

Deaths

GOLDSMITH Deirdre (née Stafford) Aged 82, peacefully at home on 1st July, after a marvellous life which ended with a long and distressing illness, endured with courage, serenity and humour. Deeply loved and loving wife for 52 years of Alick, mother of Lucinda and Crispin, grandmother of Hannah, Joseph, Allegra, Orlando and Rafferty, and friend to many. Funeral at St Saviour's Church, Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge, TN10 1BJ at 10.30am on Thursday 27th July. No flowers. Donations if desired to Sightsavers at deirdregoldsmithneestafford.muchloved.com

HOUSE Patrick Dennis on 7th July 2023, aged 93, much-loved husband, father and grandfather.

JONES Susan (Sue) (née Cox) passed away peacefully on 30th June 2023, aged 86. Greatly loved and adored sister, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. All welcome to join the family for a celebration of Sue's life on Friday 21st July at 10am at St Mary & St Gabriel Church, South Harting, GU31 5QB and afterwards at Durford Mill House. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Hampshire & IoW Air Ambulance, or The Rosemary Foundation by cheque to the charities c/o Michael Miller, 27a High Street, Petersfield, Hants GU32 3JR. Alternatively online to www.memorygiving.com/susanjones1

PINTO Marigold Jennifer (née Levison) died on 30th June 2023, aged 90, hugely loved and missed mother of Susanne, Amanda, Francesca and Timothy, grandmother to William, Charlotte, Jessica, Sophie, Darcey, Oliver, Sabrina and Zöe, sister to Nicholas and friend and inspiration to many people. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium, 2pm, 19th July 2023. No flowers please but donations to Sense.org.uk

Readers' Lives

Model and producer who travelled to the North Pole

GABY BEDFORD, WHO DIED AGED 76, FEATURED IN THE TIMES ON NOVEMBER 23, 2019

Commemorate the life of a friend or relative in Readers' Lives, a service in contracted tributes

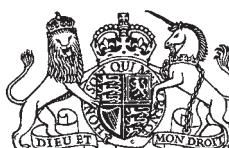


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THE TIMES

Court Circular



Buckingham Palace

11th July, 2023
The King held an Investiture at Windsor Castle this morning.

Mrs Justice Dias, Mrs Justice Hill, Mrs Justice Morgan and Mrs Justice Stacey were received by The King at Windsor Castle this afternoon upon their appointment as Justices of the High Court when His Majesty invested them with the Insignia of Dames Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Mr Justice Bennathan, Mr Justice Bright, Mr Justice Constable, Mr Justice Fowler, Mr Justice Kinney, Mr Justice Rajah, Mr Justice Richards, Mr Justice Smith and Mr Justice Sweeting were received by The King upon their appointment as Justices of the High Court when His Majesty conferred upon them the honour of Knighthood and invested them with the Insignia of Knights Bachelor.

Captain Jiwan Prasad Gurung, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, and Captain Narendra Radhoj Gurung, Queen's Gurkha Engineers (The King's Gurkha Orderly Officers) were received by The King when His Majesty invested them with the Insignia of Members of the Royal Victorian Order. Colonel David

Robinson (Colonel, Brigade of Gurkhas) was present.

The Queen, Patron, this afternoon held a Reception to mark the Fifteenth Anniversary of First Story at Clarence House.

St James's Palace

11th July, 2023
The Princess Royal, Royal Patron, Hft, this morning visited Flintshire Adult Day Care Centre, Hwb Cyfle, Chester Road West, Queensferry, Deeside, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Clwyd (Mr Henry Fetherstonhaugh).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, this afternoon visited their Headquarters of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation at Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, Clwyd.

Kensington Palace

11th July, 2023
The Duke of Gloucester this morning attended the Great Yorkshire Show, Railway Road, Great Yorkshire, Showground, Harrogate, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire (Mrs Johanna Ropner).

His Royal Highness, Patron, Cathedrals in Pilgrimage, afterwards visited Ripon Cathedral, Ripon.

The Duke of Gloucester this evening attended a Dinner at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, Fossgate, York.

The Duchess of Gloucester, President, Royal Academy of Music, this morning attended the Graduation Ceremony at Freemasons' Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London WC2.

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**IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2022-23**

**HIGH SPEED RAIL (CREWE - MANCHESTER) BILL
ADDITIONAL PROVISION 2
AND NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is intended that the Select Committee of the House of Commons which is considering this Bill should consider certain amendments to the Bill for the following amongst other purposes:-

1. Amendments to authorise revised proposals for the construction of works, a general description of the nature of which is set out below, to authorise the acquisition or use of lands and to undertake the diversion of a specified overhead electric line in the County of Cheshire and in the districts and parishes mentioned below:

Borough of Cheshire East-

Parish of Leighton

- Land required for highway works

Parish of Warmingham

- A realignment of Warmingham Road (Work No. 1/13B)

Town of Sandbach

- Temporary realignment of the A534 Old Mill Road and the A534 Congleton Road (Work No. 1/13C)

Town of Middlewich

- Land required in relation to highway works to the A533 Leadsmithy Street

Parish of Tabley Superior

- A realignment of the M6 Motorway junction 19 northbound offslip (Work No. 1/93A)

- Land required for highway works

Parishes of Mere, High Legh, Millington and Agden

- Land required in connection with utility works

Diversions of gas mains (Works Nos. 1/96, 1/107 and 1/110)

Parish of Mere

- An access road (Work No. 1/108A)

Parishes of Mere and Millington

- Land required for highway works

Parish of Millington

- A temporary realignment of the A556 (Work No. 1/132B)

- An access road (Work No. 1/132C)

- Land required for an access road (Work No. 1/133A)

Parishes of Little Bollington, Rostherne and Ashley

- Land required for overhead line diversions and associated works

Parish of Rostherne

- Land required for highway works

- Land required for an access road (Work No. 1/134)

Parish of Ashley

- Land required for highway works, drainage, access and environmental mitigation

- Access roads (Works Nos. 1/142D and 2/2)

- Land required in connection with a diversion of a watercourse (Work No. 1/143)

- Land required in connection with the realignment of Mobberley Road (Work No. 1/144)

- Widening of the M56 motorway (Works Nos. 2/2A and 2/2B)

- Narrowings of the River Bollin (Works Nos. 2/2D and 2/2E)

Parish of Tatton

- Land required for environmental mitigation

Parish of Mobberley

- Land required for environmental mitigation

Town of Wilmslow

- A realignment of Mobberley Road (Work No. 2/2C)

Borough of Cheshire West & Chester –

Parish of Byley

- Temporary realignments of the A530 Croxton Lane and King Street and the A530 King Street (Works Nos. 1/46A and 1/46B)

Parish of Lostock Gralam

- A realignment of the A559 Manchester Road and the A559 Hall Lane (Work No. 1/73A)

- Land required for highway works

Parish of Lach Dennis

- Land required for utility works and access

Borough of Cheshire East, Parish of Ashley, Greater Manchester, Metropolitan Borough of Trafford, Parish of Ringway, City of Manchester –

A realignment of the M56 Motorway and Junction 6 of that Motorway including slip roads and land associated with those works (Works Nos. 2/5A, 2/5B, 2/5C, 2/5E, 2/5F, 2/5H, 2/5I, 2/5J, 2/5K, 2/9C, 2/9E, 2/9F, 2/9G, 2/9H, 2/9L and 2/9M)

Borough of Warrington-

Parish of Lymm

- A realignment of the M6 Motorway junction 20A northbound onslip (Work No. 1/111E)

Parishes of Lymm and Appleton

Land required for highway works

Greater Manchester, Metropolitan Borough of Trafford-

- Narrowings of the River Bollin (Works Nos. 2/2D and 2/2E)
- A realignment of Sunbank Lane and Chapel Lane (Work No. 2/6D)
- Access roads (Works Nos. 2/5G, 2/6H, 2/11A, 2/18D, 2/18E, 2/18F)
- Inclusion of a tunnel in a railway (Work No. 2/1)
- Amended roads (Works Nos. 2/10 and 2/11)
- Additional land for environmental mitigation, drainage and utility works
- Realignments of Timperley Brook (Works Nos. 2/14A and 2/14B)
- A Tramroad (Work No. 2/16A)
- A realignment of Thorley Lane (Work No. 2/18)

Parish of Dunham Massey-

- Land required for overhead line diversions

Greater Manchester, City of Manchester-

- Land required for highway works, utility works, drainage and access
- A realigned railway in tunnel (Works Nos. 2/1A and 2/1B) including a shaft (The Hollies) and additional land at Birchfields Road
- A diversion of a watercourse (Work No. 2/18H)
- Access roads (Works Nos. 2/19B, 2/19C, 2/26C, 2/26D, 2/34A and 2/34B)
- A realignment of Rondin Road (Work No. 2/20A)
- A realignment of the A635 Ashton Old Road (Work No. 2/20B)
- An amended railway (Work No. 2/25)
- Land required for working sites
- A realignment of Heyrod Street and Portugal Street East
- An amendment to the realignment of Travis Street and North Western Street (Work No. 2/40)

Greater Manchester, City of Manchester, Parish of Ringway-

- Access roads (Works Nos. 2/5D, 2/6E, 2/6F, 2/6G, 2/9K)
- A realignment of Sunbank Lane and Chapel Lane (Work No. 2/6D)
- Inclusion of a tunnel in a railway (Work No. 2/1)
- A realignment of Runger Lane (Work No. 2/9I)
- A realignment of Avro Way (Work No. 2/9J)
- A Tramroad (Work No. 2/16A)
- A realignment of Runger Lane and Thorley Lane (Work No. 2/18G)
- A realignment of Thorley Lane (Work No. 2/18)
- Land required for highway works

Dumfries and Galloway-

- Additional land for access, drainage and utility works

In connection with the construction of the tramroad referred to and generally described in paragraph 1, the gauge to be adopted is 1,435 millimetres and for the motive power to be employed is electrical energy, or in emergency or for maintenance, diesel power or other means.

In connection with the construction of the works specified in 1 above, provision for the stopping up or diversion of the public footpaths specified in Schedule 1 to this notice.

The proposed amendments would confer powers authorising the alteration or disturbance of the surface of streets or roads in connection with the construction of an underground railway. The roads or streets which may be affected by the exercise of the power are described in Schedule 2 to this notice. The powers are proposed to be exercised primarily in order to provide a power supply for the construction of that part of the proposed railway in the City of Manchester (Works Nos. 2/1A and 2/1B in the Bill) which would be in tunnel but also in relation to utility works on Greenbrow Road, Firbank Road, Simonsway, M56 Motorway Junction 3A Southbound On-slip and the A560 Altringham Road in connection with the construction of that tunnel. The powers may be exercised in relation to those roads and the roads and streets described in Schedule 2 to the extent that they are within Act limits.

The lands which may be acquired or used includes part of the Bridgewater Canal tow path in the County of Cheshire, Borough of Cheshire East, Parish of Millington being 100 m².

Amendments to make provision about –

- (a) (applications for permits under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016 for landfill sites within (i) Act limits, or (ii) a zone specified by a high speed rail safeguarding direction, and
- (b) the surrender of existing permits under those regulations in relation to landfill sites within land acquired under the powers of the Bill.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT as from 10 July 2023 Plans and Sections, with a Book of Reference to those Plans, relating to the proposed Amendments will be available for public inspection at the offices and libraries referred to in Parts I and II of Schedule 3 to this Notice.

As from 10 July 2023 an Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments (ES) and Supplementary Environmental Statement (SES) together with a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will also be available for public inspection at each of the offices mentioned in Part I of Schedule 3 and in addition to inspection, for sale at those offices indicated with a “**” in that part of that schedule.

As from 10 July 2023 an Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments (ES) and Supplementary Environmental Statement (SES) together with a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will also be available for public inspection at each of the libraries mentioned in Part II of Schedule 3 to this notice and for inspection at the following office: High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, 7th Floor, Albany House, 96-98 Petty France, London, SW1H 9EA, Tel: 08081 434 434, Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.

As from 10 July 2023 copies of the proposed Amendments together with copies of the Bill will be available for public inspection at each of the offices and libraries mentioned in Parts I and II of Schedule 3 to this notice and for inspection at the following office: High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, 7th Floor, Albany House, 96-98 Petty France, London, SW1H 9EA, Tel: 08081 434 434, Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk.

Copies of the ES, SES and NTS and copies of the proposed Amendments together with copies of the Bill are available for sale from High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, 7th Floor, Albany House, 96-98 Petty France, London, SW1H 9EA, Tel: 08081 434 434, Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, www.gov.uk/hs2, https://www.hs2-bill-documents.onlineshop.org.uk/additionalprovision2/ and as from 10 July 2023, for inspection and sale at Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP, Capital Square, 58 Morrison Street, Edinburgh EH3 8BP.

The proposed Amendments and the Bill are available on the UK Parliament's website at www.parliament.uk. The Plans and Sections, ES, SES and NTS are available at https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2b-high-speed-rail-crewe-manchester-additional-provision-2. Specialist technical reports relating to the ES and SES are also available on that website.

Please note, while every effort is made to ensure material at deposit locations is publicly available, there may be occasions beyond the control of HS2 Ltd when deposit locations have to close temporarily and at short notice. Information about the arrangements currently in place for the inspection of the documents at deposit locations can be checked at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/where-to-view-the-hs2-phase-2b-crewe-manchester-additional-provision-2-and-supplementary-environmental-statement-2>. All documentation relating to the Crewe – Manchester Additional Provision 2 can be found online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2b-high-speed-rail-crewe-manchester-additional-provision-2>. Should you have any difficulty accessing the material, please contact the HS2 Helpdesk at: Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, Tel: 08081 434 434 who will arrange for printed or electronic copies to be sent to you.

Any person who wishes to make comments on the ES and SES should send them to the Secretary of State for Transport either by post to: FREEPOST HS2 AP2, by email to: HS2AP2@ipsos.com or online at <https://ipsos.uk/HS2AP2> on or before 11:45 pm on 31 August 2023. Further information can be found on the consultation website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/high-speed-rail-crewe-manchester-additional-provision-2-environmental-statement-and-supplementary-environmental-statement-2-consultation>.

Please note: if you wish to send your response by recorded delivery or special delivery, please telephone the HS2 Ltd Helpdesk on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk to arrange this.

Anyone wishing to send comments should note that responses will be published on a publicly-accessible website in due course, but the names, addresses and signatures of individuals will not be published. As it is not possible for the substance of responses to be checked to ascertain whether they contain other personal data, you should not include information in your response that could identify you unless you are content for it to be made public.

If you do not want any of your response to be published you should clearly mark it as “Confidential” in the “subject” of the email or at the top of your letter. However please note the following two paragraphs.

If you want the information you provide to be treated as confidential, you should be aware that all information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to disclosure in accordance with access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR). Under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with confidentiality obligations. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain in your response why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If a request for disclosure of the information you provide is received full account will be taken of your explanation, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department for Transport or High Speed Two (HS2) Limited.

Please note that all responses received, whether marked Confidential or not, will be passed on in full to the Houses of Parliament and their appointed Assessor, who will analyse the responses and make a report to Parliament. That report will not contain your personal data.

The Department for Transport and High Speed Two (HS2) Limited are jointly responsible for looking after the personal data that you provide in your response to this consultation, which is being carried out by us in the exercise of our official authority as public bodies. To find out more about how we will use your personal data, what your rights are and how to contact our data protection officers, go to <https://www.gov.uk/hs2-phase2b-crewe-manchester> to see our Personal Information Notice.

Submitting comments to the Secretary of State does not affect the entitlement of persons to make objections to the proposed Amendments by submitting a petition to the House of Commons referred to below.

The Bill has been introduced in the House of Commons as a public Bill. Objection to the proposed Amendments may be made by submitting a petition against them in person at the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1P 0AA, online through the Select Committee website at <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/597/high-speed-rail-crewe-manchester-bill-select-committee-commons/>, by post to the Private Bill Office, House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1P 0AA or e-mail to prbohoc@parliament.uk. If you wish to submit your petition in person, please contact the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons to arrange this (tel:020 7219 3250, email: prbohoc@parliament.uk).

In accordance with Private Business Standing Order 171B (4), the Chairman of Ways and Means has decided that any such Petition must be submitted before 5 pm on 15 August 2023.

In the House of Lords, objection to the Bill may be made by submitting a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments within a period decided by the Chairman of Committees which is not less than 25 days after the Bill receives its first reading in that House.

The House of Commons and the House of Lords may make copies of any petitions they receive public, and exchange any personal information contained therein, which will be shared with the Promotor of the Bill.

Information about the deposit of such Petitions may be obtained from either the Private Bill Office, House of Commons (tel:020 7219 3250, email: prbohoc@parliament.uk, www.parliament.uk/bills), the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords (tel: 020 7219 3231, email: hlprivatebills@parliament.uk, www.parliament.uk/bills), or from the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents (tel: 020 7593 5000, https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2b-high-speed-rail-crewe-manchester-additional-provision-2).

DATED 5 July 2023

DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 4DR.

Winckworth Sherwood LLP

Parliamentary Agents
Minerva House
5 Montague Close
London SE1 9BB

Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP

Parliamentary Agents
One Wood Street
London EC2V 7WS

SCHEDULE 1

Area	Footpath or bridleway to be stopped up or diverted	Permanent/temporary
<i>County of Cheshire, Borough of Cheshire East, Parish of Millington</i>	Footpath Millington 1/1 Footpath Millington 2/1	Temporary Temporary
<i>Town of Sandbach</i>	Footpath Sandbach 11/2	Temporary
<i>Parish of Little Bollington</i>	Footpath Little Bollington 6/1 Footpath Little Bollington 7/1 Footpath Little Bollington 8/1 Footpath Little Bollington 8/2 Footpath Little Bollington 8/4 Footpath Little Bollington 13/1	Temporary Temporary Temporary Temporary Temporary Temporary
<i>Parish of Rostherne</i>	Footpath Rostherne 9/1	Temporary
<i>Parish of Ashley</i>	Footpath Ashley 1/2 Footpath Ashley 2/1 Footpath Ashley 2/3 Footpath Ashley 3/1 Footpath Ashley 6/1 Footpath Ashley 20/1 Footpath Ashley 10/1 Footpath Ashley 11/1 Footpath Ashley 11/2	Temporary Temporary Temporary Temporary Temporary Temporary Temporary Temporary Temporary
<i>Town of Wilmslow</i>	Footpath Wilmslow 126/1	Temporary
<i>Borough of Cheshire West & Chester, Parish of Lostock Gralam</i>	Footpath Lostock Gralam 8/1 Footpath Lostock Gralam 7/1 Footpath Lostock Gralam 7/2 Footpath Lostock Gralam 7/3 Footpath Lostock Gralam 8/3 Footpath Lostock Gralam 8/2	Temporary Temporary Temporary Temporary Temporary Temporary
<i>City of Manchester</i>	Footpath 260 Footpath not on definitive map (Footpath 260) along footbridge over M56 Motorway Footpath 139 Footpaths not on definitive map (on Replacement Sheet No. 2-19 of the deposited plans)	Temporary Temporary Temporary Permanent

Area	Footpath or bridleway to be stopped up or diverted	Permanent/temporary
Parish of Ringway	Footpath 11 (RINGWAY)	Permanent
	Footpath 12 (RINGWAY)	Permanent
	Footpath 13 (RINGWAY)	Temporary
	Footpath 14 (RINGWAY)	Temporary
	Footpath 15 (RINGWAY)	Temporary
	Footpath 10 (RINGWAY)	Temporary
	Footpath 8 (RINGWAY)	Temporary
	Footpath 7 (RINGWAY)	Temporary
	Footpath 9 (RINGWAY)	Temporary
Metropolitan Borough of Trafford	Footpath Hale 13	Permanent
	Footpath Hale 16	Permanent
	Footpath Hale 11a	Temporary
	Footpath Hale 12	Temporary
	Footpath Hale 14	Temporary

SCHEDULE 2

Greater Manchester, City of Manchester

Enterprise Way, Hucklow Avenue, Greenbow Road, Firbank Road, Simonsway, the M56 Motorway, the M56 Motorway Junction 3A Southbound On-slip road, the A560 Altrincham Road, Greenwood Road, the M56 Motorway Junction 3A, the A5145 Barlow Moor Road, Northern Grove, Burton Road, access road off the A5145 Barlow Moor Road, Anthony Close, Viaduct Street, Rondin Road and the A635 Ashton Old Road.

SCHEDULE 3

PART I

Officers with whom the Plans and Sections, Book of Reference, Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments, Supplementary Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary and proposed Amendments together with a copy of the Bill have been deposited for inspection. Those offices where the Additional Provision, Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments, Supplementary Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary are also available for sale are indicated by a “*”.

In Cheshire East –

*Business Intelligence Manager - Research and Consultation, Cheshire East Council, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, CW11 1HZ
 Parish Councillor, Warmingham Parish Council, Hill Farm, Hall Lane, Warmingham, Sandbach, CW11 3QU
 Parish Clerk, Leighton, Minshull Vernon and Woolstanwood Parish Council, 2 Fuller Drive, Wistaston, Crewe, CW2 6GU
 Town Clerk, Middlewich Town Council, The Town Hall, Victoria Buildings, Lewin Street, Middlewich, CW10 9AS
 Parish Clerk, Tabley Parish Council, The Community Centre, Manchester, M31 4FL
 Parish Clerk, Mere Parish Council, 9 Siddall Street, Northwich, CW9 7AF
 Parish Clerk, High Legh Parish Council, High Legh Village Hall, West Lane, High Legh, Knutsford, WA16 6LR
 Parish Clerk, Little Bollington with Agden Community Council, 25 High Field, Altrincham, WA14 4TW
 Parish Clerk, Millington and Rostherne and Tatton Parish Council, The Community Centre, Partington, Manchester, M31 4FL
 Parish Clerk, Ashley Parish Council, St Elizabeth's Church and Community Centre, Ashley Road, Ashley, Altrincham, WA14 3QE
 Parish Clerk, Mobberley Parish Council, The Rajar Building, Town Lane, Mobberley, Knutsford, WA16 7ER
 Town of Wilmslow, c/o Library Manager, Wilmslow Library, South Drive, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 1NW
 Chief Officer, Sandbach Town Council, Sandbach Town Hall, High Street, Sandbach, CW11 1AX

In Cheshire West and Chester –

*Locality Librarian, Cheshire West & Chester Council, The Portal, Wellington Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BA
 Byley Parish Meeting, c/o John Beecroft, Lilac Cottage, Byley, Middlewich, CW10 9NL
 Parish Clerk, Lach Dennis Parish Council, c/o Sandiway Library, Mere Lane, Cuddington, Northwich, CW8 2NS
 Parish Clerk, Lostock Gralam Parish Council, c/o Sandiway Library, Mere Lane, Cuddington, Northwich, CW8 2NS

In Trafford –

*Strategic Planning, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Manchester, M32 0TH
 Councillor, Parish of Dunham Massey, 34 Woodhouse Lane, Dunham Massey, WA14 5SE

In Manchester –

*Legal and Democratic Services, Manchester City Council, c/o FM Reception Ground Floor, Town Hall Extension, Lloyd Street, Manchester, M2 5DB
 Parish Councillor, Ringway Parish Council, Keepers Lodge, Altrincham, WA15 8UQ

In Warrington –

*Customer Contact Centre, Warrington Borough Council, 1 Time Square, Warrington, WA1 2NT
 Parish Clerk, Parish of Appleton, c/o Stockton Heath Library, Alexandra Park, Alexandra Road, Warrington, WA4 2AN
 Parish Clerk, Lymm Parish Council, 9 Birchfield Road, Lymm WA13 9HL

In Dumfries & Galloway –

*Dumfries and Galloway Council, DG Customer Services, Gretna Central Avenue, Gretna, DG16 5AQ
 Secretary, Community Council Area of Springfield and Gretna Green, Dildawn, Glasgow Road, Gretna Green, DG16 5DU
 Treasurer, Community Council Area of Kirkpatrick Fleming and District, Victoria Hall, Kirkpatrick Fleming, Lockerbie, DG11 3AU

PART II

Libraries where the Plans and Sections, Book of Reference, Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments, Supplementary Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary and proposed Amendments together with a copy of the Bill have been deposited for public inspection.

Crewe Library, Crewe Lifestyle Centre, Moss Square, Crewe, CW1 2BB
 Sandbach Library, The Commons, Sandbach, CW11 1FJ
 Nantwich Library, Beam Street, Nantwich, CW5 5LY
 Knutsford Library, Toft Road, Knutsford, WA16 0PG
 Holmes Chapel Library, London Road, Holmes Chapel, Crewe, CW4 7AP
 Middlewich Library, Lewin Street, Middlewich, CW10 9AS
 Winsford Library, High Street, Winsford, CW7 2AS
 Sandiway Library, Mere Lane, Cuddington, Northwich, CW8 2NS
 Frodsham Library, Princeway, Frodsham, WA6 6RX
 Helsby Library, Lower Robin Hood Lane, Helsby, Frodsham, WA6 0BW
 Partington Library, 91 Central Road, Partington, Manchester, M31 4FY
 Altrincham Library, 2 Pott Street, Altrincham, WA14 1AH
 Abraham Moss Library, Crescent Road, Crumpsall, Manchester, M8 5UF
 Arcadia Library and Leisure Centre, Yew Tree Avenue, Levenshulme, Manchester, M19 3PH
 Avenue Library and Learning Centre, Victoria Avenue East, Blackley, Manchester, M9 6HW
 Barlow Moor Community Library, 23 Merseybank Avenue, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 7NT
 Beswick Library, 60 Grey Mare Lane, Beswick, Manchester, M11 3DS
 Brooklands Library, Moor Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester, M23 9BP
 Burnage Library, Activity & Information Hub, Burnage Lane, Burnage, Manchester, M19 1EW
 Central Library, St Peters Square, City Centre, Manchester, M2 5PD
 Chorlton Library, Manchester Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, M21 9PN
 Didsbury Library, 692 Wilmslow Road, Manchester, M20 2DN
 Fallowfield Community Library, The Place at Platt Lane, Manchester, M14 7FB
 Forum Library Wythenshawe, Forum Square, Wythenshawe, Manchester, M22 5RX
 Gorton Library, Garratt Way, Gorton, Manchester, M18 8HE
 Hulme High Street Library, Library & Leisure Centre, Hulme High Street, Manchester M15 5NN
 Longsight Library and Learning Centre, 519 Stockport Road, Longsight, Manchester, M12 4NE
 Miles Platting Community Library, Victoria Mill Community Centre, Lower Vickers Street, Miles Platting, Manchester, M40 7LJ
 Moss Side Powerhouse Library, 140 Raby Street, Manchester, M14 4SL
 New Moston Community Library, Nuthurst Road, Manchester, M40 3PJ
 Newton Heath Library, Old Church Street, Manchester, M40 2JB
 North City Library, Rochdale Road, Harpurhey, Manchester, M9 4AF
 Northenden Community Library, Parkway Green House, 460 Palatine Road, Northenden, Manchester, M22 4DJ
 Withington Library, 410 Wilmslow Road, Manchester, M20 3BN
 Birchwood Library, Brock Road, Birchwood, Warrington, WA3 7PT
 Wilmslow Library, South Drive, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 1NW
 Lymm Library, Davies Way (off Brookfield Road), Warrington, WA13 0QW
 Stockton Heath Library, Alexandra Park, Alexandra Road, Warrington, WA4 2AN
 Gretna Green Library, Central Avenue, Gretna, DG16 5AQ

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MEDIA CODE **T2823**

FOCUS ON | BEDSORE COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Bedsores: The silent yet avoidable epidemic in hospitals and nursing homes — get the compensation you deserve today!

IF YOU or a loved one have suffered from bedsores during a stay in a hospital or nursing home, you could be entitled to compensation. Here's why...

Bedsores, also known as pressure ulcers or pressure sores, are skin injuries that occur when prolonged pressure on certain areas of the body restricts blood flow.

PREVENTABLE INJURY

They typically develop in individuals who are immobile or have limited mobility, such as those confined to a bed or wheelchair.

With proper nursing care, including regular repositioning, appropriate support surfaces, and diligent skin inspection, bedsores are largely avoidable.

Timely interventions, such as keeping the skin clean and moisturized, promoting good nutrition, and addressing any underlying medical conditions, can significantly reduce the risk of bedsore development.

EXPERIENCED HELP VITAL

To make a claim you need a law firm which understands the critical role that proper nursing care plays in preventing bedsores.

At Alan Curtis Solicitors you will find an expert team with over 25 years of expertise in helping people secure the compensation they deserve for bedsore injuries.

The firm handles all the legal as-

- Seek 'no-win, no-fee' compensation for preventable bedsore injuries in hospitals and nursing homes
- Even if the victim is deceased, in England & Wales you can claim for bed sore injuries within the last 3 years
- Protect your rights and claim the compensation you deserve to send a message that negligence will not be tolerated

pects on your behalf, and keeps you informed throughout the process.

WHY CHOOSE ALAN CURTIS?

Here are four key reasons to choose Alan Curtis Solicitors for your bedsore claim:

- **Your claim is our priority:** We prioritise your best interests and work tirelessly to maximise the compensation you are entitled to.
- **Personalised service:** Dealing with legal procedures can be complex, but Alan Curtis Solicitors make it simple for you. Our dedicated legal team will



Alan Curtis Solicitors specialise in personal injury and clinical injury matters. With over 25 years experience, our 'no win no fee' approach has recovered hundreds of thousands of pounds in compensation with damages reaching well in excess of £1million. We work with specialist medical and legal consultants to guarantee you the best advice available. If you or someone you know has suffered with bed sores, call 0800 065 4333 for a free, no obligation chat, or email alan@alancurtissolicitors.com

guide you every step of the way and ensure you have a clear understanding of your claim.

- **No win, no fee guarantee:** You only pay legal fees if your case is successful. We provide transparency regarding the expected timeframe, fees involved,

and the potential amount of compensation you can claim. This way, you can make an informed decision from the start.

- **Pursuing the best outcome for you:** Compensation is calculated based on the severity of your bedsore injuries and the financial losses you have incurred. At Alan Curtis Solicitors, we strive to secure fair compensation for both past and future losses you may experience.

IT COSTS NOTHING TO CLAIM

To discuss your bedsore claim, call the friendly, expert team at Alan Curtis Solicitors now on 0800 065 4333 or fill out the quick form online at www.alancurtissolicitors.com.

There's no obligation when you reach out to discover the potential value of your specific claim. You could be taking your first step to reclaiming the financial stability which is rightfully yours.

No win, no fee... how it works

If you worry that making a claim could leave you out of pocket, rest assured — you pay nothing if your claim fails. Deductions are only made from your compensation if your claim succeeds. You will receive a minimum of 75% of any damages recovered. There is no further contribution towards costs, regardless of legal fees incurred.

At Alan Curtis Solicitors we do absolutely all that we can to avoid you being impacted financially because of your accident or injury.

Recovering from an injury can be costly, too. We can support you in recovering additional losses such as treatment costs, consultation fees and other out-of-pocket expenses.

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Call 0800 065 4333 for free and impartial advice or fill-in the form at www.alancurtissolicitors.com. We'll be happy to answer your questions and help you understand whether you can make a claim.

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Genuine client

Here's one recent testimonial which confirms Alan Curtis Solicitors do all they can to give their customers the best legal advice available.

"I instructed Alan after a bedsore injury that my grandma suffered with, after being admitted to our local hospital. I found out about Alan through an advertisement and I chose him because he is a specialist in legal matters involving medical injuries which relate to hospitals and care homes. I found Alan very helpful, I could always contact him at any time. Everything

was always explained to me throughout the case. I was pleased with the outcome and the compensation received. It was a complicated matter which required specialist legal knowledge. I would certainly recommend Alan to anyone that has suffered an injury that was avoidable and unnecessary. It does not cost anything to get in touch."

Verified online review

"I never knew I could claim compensation for bedsores even after a bereavement..."

BEDSORES, or pressure sores, are injuries to the skin and underlying tissue, usually from prolonged pressure on the skin.

Bedsores are usually suffered on the heels, lower back and sacrum area. These can often be caused whilst in care and most should have been avoided.

We are a trusted firm of solicitors with over 25 years' experience. We have successfully claimed hundreds of thousands of pounds in damages for the victims of bedsore injuries and their families.

To discover more, contact Alan Curtis Solicitors now.

“The service you provided was second to none from the first contact to the last. Extremely pleased with the outcome and would recommend you unreservedly.”

Mrs Davies, Swansea

0800 0654 333

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Email: alan@alancurtissolicitors.com or visit www.alancurtissolicitors.com



**CONTACT
US FOR YOUR
FREE
CONSULTATION
TODAY**



**LIKE THESE
MOMENTS?**

**THEN YOU'LL
LOVE THIS!**

Who doesn't like a gentle relaxing foot massage...

The comfortable feeling of soft and supple calf muscles...

Or that blissful sensation of shoes coming off at the end of the day!

**RISK-FREE
28-DAY
GUARANTEE**

The Bestselling **VITAL LEG STIMULATOR**

A revitalising treat for legs and feet in only minutes a day

Imagine placing your feet on a leather mat to replicate the soothing effects of a foot massage. Imagine, too, if that same mat could deliver gentle muscle-easing vibrations to your lower limbs and give you that 'Aaaahh' feeling you get when you free your feet from your shoes at the end of the day. Well, imagine no more...

Sales of the Vital Leg Stimulator have exploded in the UK and for good reason. This simple leather mat delivers a deep and thorough foot massage just like a professional acupuncture treatment from the comfort of your own home!

The Vital Leg Stimulator

is designed to intuitively detect the acupuncture points on the soles of your feet. The mat delivers pain-free stimulation to these ancient 'nerve-centres', which may help tone the cells and firm the skin of your lower legs and feet. Yet that's not all...

By stimulating leg muscles with

tried, tested and totally safe EMS pulse technology, Vital Leg is popular with those who live a sedentary lifestyle — whether by choice or due to mobility issues. By 'reactivating' under-utilised legs and feet, Vital Leg may help to soothe common aches and strains in the lower limbs.

And it's easy to use, too. Simply place your feet on the leather mat, choose your treatment setting and let Vital Leg work its magic!

PLUS: Save £40 when you order today quoting code G12TIVL.



REMOVABLE CONTROL UNIT

- 6 programmes
- 10 strength levels
- 15 minute cycle
- Turn unit off / on and increase / decrease power of treatment

VITAL LEG IS HUGELY POPULAR WITH
PENSIONERS; THOSE WHO LEAD A SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE;
REGULAR WEARERS OF HEELS OR TIGHT-FITTING FOOTWEAR;
WALKERS AND HIKERS; RUNNERS; CYCLISTS AND MORE...



HOW VITAL LEG BRINGS RELIEF

Vital Leg uses Electrical Muscle Stimulation (EMS), a tried and tested protocol using low-frequency impulses to elicit gentle muscle contractions which stimulate your motor neurons. By combining the healing power of EMS technology with the ancient knowledge of acupuncture points, Vital Leg delivers wide-ranging care for legs and feet.

SIX TREATMENT MODES 10 LEVELS OF INTENSITY



WHY PAY MORE?

Vital Leg offers incredible value for money. With other devices retailing for 3-figure sums, Vital Leg is yours today for a fraction of the price of those big name brands.

**— PLUS —
£40 OFF
TODAY!**

**ONLY £39.99
WHEN YOU ORDER DIRECT TODAY!
USUAL PRICE £79.99**

28-DAY RISK-FREE 100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

If you are not completely satisfied or if the results do not meet your expectations, we will reimburse you fully without quibbling upon simple written request.

WHY IS VITAL LEG SO EFFECTIVE?

The Vital Leg unit is based on the widely acknowledged ancient method of acupuncture — using pressure points on the soles of your feet which correspond to your body's organs. The Vital Leg mat delivers instant physiotherapy for your feet in the form of a relaxing massage to stimulate the acupuncture points, release tension and lessen fatigue.

PRESSURE POINTS LEFT FOOT

- Brain
- Digestive System
- Heart
- Arteries
- Colon
- Lungs
- Kidneys
- Spleen

Your vital organs are replicated via pressure points on the soles of your feet



PRESSURE POINTS RIGHT FOOT

- Liver
- Stomach
- Pancreas
- Bladder
- Gall Bladder
- Adrenal Glands
- Pituitary Glands
- Eyes
- Ears

This item should not be used by people who are:
• Fitted with an electronic implant such as a pacemaker or AICD
• Being treated for, or have the symptoms of, a deep vein thrombosis (DVT)
• Pregnant. If unsure, please consult a doctor before use.

SCAN ME



— OR ORDER QUICKLY & EASILY ONLINE —

www.vitalegs.co.uk

Or post the coupon below to Wellform Ltd, DRMG House, Cremers Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3US

— TO ORDER NOW BY PHONE —
CALL 0871 075 2635

CALLS COST 13P PER MINUTE PLUS YOUR PHONE COMPANY'S ACCESS CHARGE

OFFER CODE G12TIVL

Please send completed coupon to: WELLFORM LIMITED,
Dept G12TIVL, DRMG House, Cremers Rd, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3US

Delivery to mainland UK as standard

Delivery to Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, Highlands and Scottish Islands costs an additional £6

✓	CODE	ITEM	RRP	PRICE	SAVING	QTY	SUBTOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/>	H66185	1 x Vital Leg Foot Mat	£79.99	£39.99	SAVE £40		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Z2H66185	2 x Vital Leg Foot Mats	£169.98	£69.98	SAVE £90		
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRIORITY PROCESSING & EXPRESS DELIVERY: ADD £3.00						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	STANDARD 7 WORKING DAY DELIVERY						£4.99
<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, Highlands and Scottish Islands + £6.00 P&P						

We would like to send you information about our range of products and our latest new lines. If you would prefer not to hear from us in this way please tick the relevant box(es): Post Email Telephone SMS. We think you'd enjoy some of the latest products and selected offers by post from other trusted retailers, charities, finance, travel, FMCG and utility companies. If you would prefer not to receive these by post, please tick this box. To learn more about our trusted partners, see our privacy policy at www.wellformdirect.co.uk. Our standard delivery to UK mainland costs just £4.99 and takes up to 7 working days. Delivery to Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, Highlands and Scottish Islands costs an additional £6. Customers have 28 days from receipt of goods to approve purchase. Customer Services: 0203 455 0498. Calls to 0871 numbers are charged 13p per minute plus network extras. Wellform Ltd. Registered Number 07914179, DRMG House, Cremers Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3US. If you have a medical history (diabetes, heart disease, prostheses), consider consulting your doctor.

ORDER TOTAL £

I enclose a cheque/PO made payable to WELLFORM LIMITED
 Or charge my credit / debit card account no.

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Start Date

Exp Date

CSV

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Tel

Wellform
Everyday products for your health and wellbeing

Weather

Today Showers or longer spells of rain, turning heavy and thundery at times. Max 21C (70F), min 5C (41F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=dizzle, pc=partly cloudy
du=dull, f=fog, h=hill, m=mist, r=rain,
sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder
**=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C	Rain mm	Sun hr*
midday yesterday		24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	
Aberdeen	17	R 12.6	10.5
Aberporth	15	C 2.6	0.3
Anglesey	17	C 3.8	1.5
Aviemore	15	R 10.4	5.6
Barnstaple	18	R 6.4	**
Bedford	19	C 5.6	**
Belfast	16	R 5.4	0.6
Birmingham	17	R 12.8	**
Bournemouth	20	C 1.2	1.7
Bridlington	20	PC 4.2	**
Bristol	18	PC 17.4	1.0
Camborne	18	D 15.6	0.6
Cardiff	18	C 19.4	0.3
Edinburgh	18	D 16.6	0.9
Eskdalemuir	16	R 19.6	0.5
Glasgow	18	C 18.0	1.6
Hereford	17	R 4.0	**
Herstmonceux	19	C 0.0	5.9
Ipswich	22	C 0.0	10.3
Isle of Man	17	C 11.6	0.1
Isle of Wight	19	C 0.0	**
Jersey	17	C 2.0	12.3
Keswick	17	R 16.0	**
Kinloss	16	C 6.6	6.5
Leeds	17	C 2.4	**
Lerwick	14	C 0.6	1.5
Leuchars	18	R 13.0	5.0
Lincoln	18	PC 4.0	5.4
Liverpool	19	PC 3.4	**
London	22	C 0.8	7.0
Lyneham	18	C 14.2	1.2
Manchester	18	C 3.4	2.3
Margate	21	M 0.0	11.7
Milford Haven	17	C 12.6	**
Newcastle	19	C 0.6	**
Nottingham	18	C 13.0	4.1
Orkney	15	C 2.6	11.8
Oxford	20	PC 4.2	**
Plymouth	17	M 20.2	**
Portland	18	C 3.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	18	C 8.4	**
Shoreham	22	C 0.2	8.7
Shrewsbury	18	C 9.4	1.8
Snowdonia	15	R 12.2	**
Southend	22	C 0.0	9.8
South Uist	15	C 1.0	**
Stornoway	17	R 6.4	10.3
Tiree	17	PC 2.4	3.0
Whitehaven	16	R 5.4	0.4
Wick	15	C 4.2	**
Yevilton	18	C 9.8	0.4

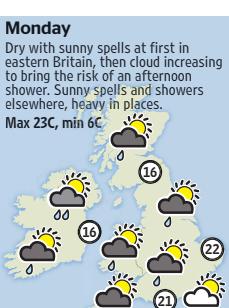
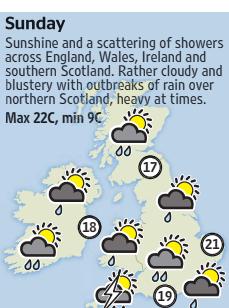
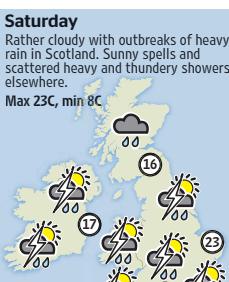
The world

All readings local midday yesterday

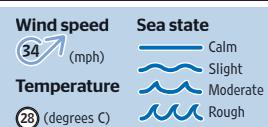
Alicante	31	S	Madeira	26	PC
Amsterdam	25	PC	Madrid	35	S
Athens	32	PC	Malaga	32	S
Auckland	14	B	Mallorca	36	S
Bahrain	40	S	Malta	33	S
Bangkok	***	***	Melbourne	16	B
Barbados	29	PC	Mexico City	25	T
Barcelona	28	PC	Miami	34	B
Beijing	***	***	Milan	32	S
Beirut	30	S	Mombasa	29	PC
Belgrade	32	S	Montreal	21	R
Berlin	27	S	Moscow	15	B
Bermuda	24	SH	Mumbai	31	S
Bordeaux	29	B	Munich	31	S
Brussels	28	S	Nairobi	26	B
Bucharest	30	PC	Naples	32	S
Budapest	30	S	New Orleans	33	PC
Buenos Aires	15	PC	New York	27	B
Cairo	33	PC	Nice	29	S
Calcutta	34	S	Nicosia	32	PC
Canberra	13	S	Oslo	17	B
Cape Town	16	S	Paris	30	S
Chicago	29	PC	Perth	***	***
Copenhagen	20	B	Prague	26	PC
Corfu	33	PC	Reykjavik	19	PC
Delhi	30	M	Riga	20	S
Dubai	41	S	Rio de Janeiro	25	PC
Dublin	19	PC	Riyadh	45	S
Faro	27	S	Rome	31	S
Florence	35	S	San Francisco	17	PC
Frankfurt	32	S	Santiago	15	S
Geneva	33	PC	Sao Paulo	20	B
Gibraltar	32	S	Seoul	25	SH
Helsinki	21	B	Seychelles	25	SH
Hong Kong	***	***	Singapore	***	***
Honolulu	30	PC	St Petersburg	17	PC
Istanbul	27	PC	Stockholm	21	S
Jerusalem	32	PC	Sydney	17	S
Johannesburg	9	S	Tel Aviv	32	PC
Kuala Lumpur	***	***	Tenerife	30	S
Kyiv	***	***	Tokyo	32	PC
Lanzarote	31	S	Vancouver	18	PC
Las Palmas	29	PC	Venice	30	S
Lima	21	S	Vienna	29	S
Lisbon	27	PC	Warsaw	22	PC
Los Angeles	22	PC	Washington	30	B
Luxor	36	S	Zurich	33	S

Five days ahead

Unsettled and at times blustery with showers or longer spells of rain, heavy at times

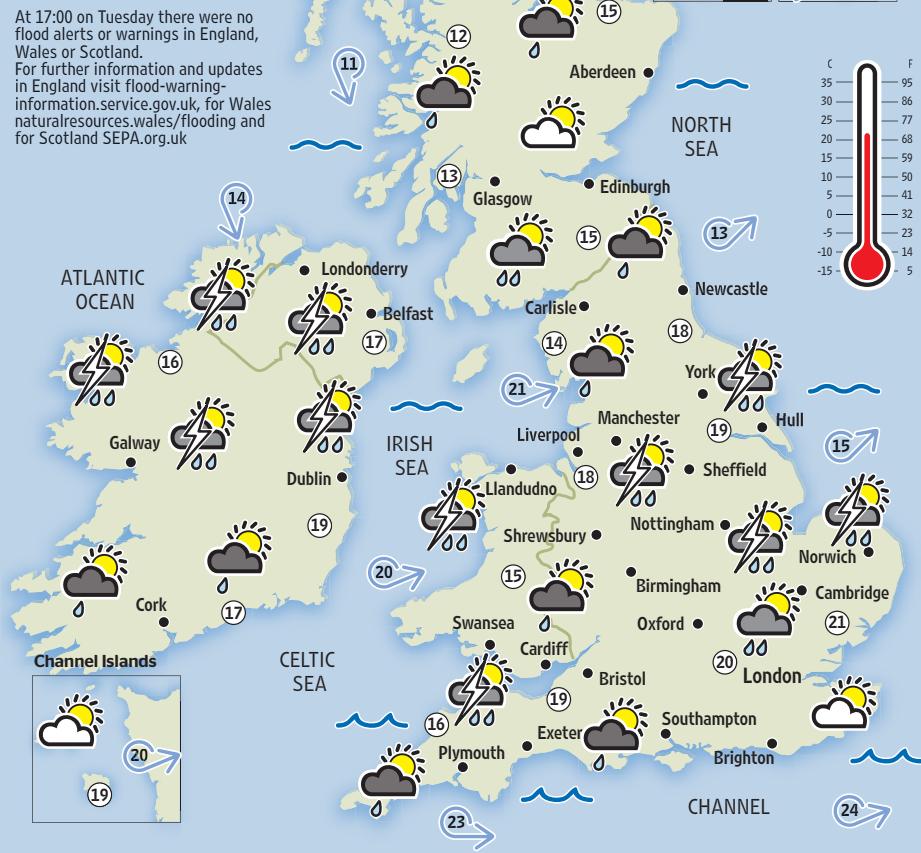


The Times weather page is provided by



Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Tuesday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales or Scotland. For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk



General situation: Dry and sunny in eastern England at first, otherwise it will be a day of sunshine and showers across the British Isles.

SE Eng, E Anglia, E Mids, London, Edinburgh and Dundee, Borders, E Eng, Channel Is: Dry with sunny spells in the morning but cloud increasing to bring the risk of an afternoon shower. Moderate to fresh southwesterly wind. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 8C (46F).

NE Scotland, N Isles: Rather cloudy

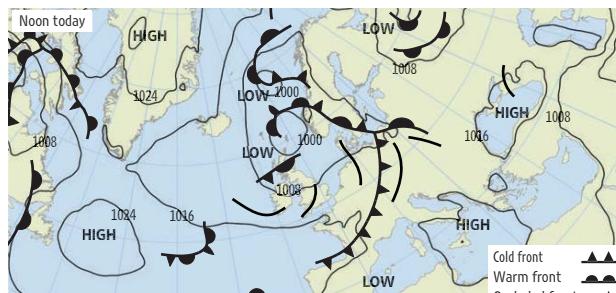
with showery rain, heavy at times. Fresh to strong west or northwesterly winds, but light and variable winds over Shetland. Maximum 14C (57F), minimum 10C (50F).

Cen Eng, W Mids, Cen N Eng, NE Eng, Glasgow, SW Scotland: Mainly dry with sunny spells at first but cloud soon increasing to bring a scattering of showers, heavy and thundery at times. Light to moderate westerly wind. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 8C (46F).

Cen Highland, Moray Firth, Aberdeen, Argyll, NW Scotland: Cloud and rain in the morning, turning sunny with showers during the afternoon. Light to moderate westerly wind. Maximum 17C (63F), minimum 5C (41F).

SW Eng, NW Eng, Wales, Lake District, Republic of Ireland, N Ireland, IoM: Sunny spells and a scattering of showers, heavy and thundery at times. Moderate westerly wind, fresh near the coast. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 7C (45F).

Cold front **Warm front** **Occluded front** **Trough**



Synoptic situation

Low pressure centred over Shetland will push an occluded front southwards across Scotland bringing thick cloud and longer spells of rain. Troughs will spread eastwards over the rest of Britain and Ireland bringing a scattering of showers between the sunny spells. Turning drier tomorrow with a ridge of high pressure building from the Atlantic.

*Prices listed are based on two sharing a twin/double room. Single supplement on request. Flights on holidays booked more than 11 months in advance may be subject to supplements when airline fares are published. *Offer applies to bookings confirmed between 1 and 31 July 2023 only. Offer applies to selected 2024 departures. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Wendy Wu, ABTA W7994 ATOL 6639, a company wholly independent of News UK.

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Sport

Double century for rising star

LV= County Championship

Elgan Alderman

James Rew became the fourth-youngest batsman to have scored a double century in the County Championship, helping Somerset to 500 all out against Hampshire at Taunton.

The 19-year-old wicketkeeper, one of the highest-rated youngsters in domestic cricket, came to the crease at 41 for four on day one and was the last man out for 221 off 310 balls. Rew scored his maiden first-class hundred last summer and has added five more this season, making him the leading runscorer in Division One with 952. His career average is 56.13 in his 17th match.

Dom Sibley had just turned 18 when he compiled a double hundred for Surrey against Yorkshire in 2013. David Sales and Sam Hain are the only others younger than Rew to have passed 200 in the championship. In the pre-championship era, WG Grace was younger than Sibley when he scored his first first-class double hundred, for England against Surrey in 1866. Rew turns 20 in January, giving him five rounds after this match to set the record for most championship hundreds by a teenager. Century No 6 took him past Hain and Ben Stokes and level with Dan Lawrence.

Rew's first-class debut came for the County Select XI against India in 2021. He was in the England Under-19 team



Somerset batsman Rew now has six hundreds and will not turn 20 until January

that lost in the World Cup final in 2022, top scoring with 95.

After Somerset elected to bat, the top order fell to Kyle Abbott inside 13 overs. Rew rebuilt with Kasey Aldridge, (88) and Dom Bess (54) before adding 108 for the final wicket with Shoaib Bashir, also 19. Rew's innings is notable for the

quality of attack it came against: Keith Barker and Mohammad Abbas — who were wicketless — and Abbott and Liam Dawson — with four-fours — were not able to dismiss him, though James Vince was. Jack Brooks dismissed Joe Weatherley with the first ball of Hampshire's reply. They closed on 58 for two.

Results and scoreboards

Wimbledon

Seeds in brackets British players in blue

Men: Singles: Quarter-finals (2) N Djokovic (Serbia) bt (7) A Rublev (Russia) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3; (8) J Sinner (It) bt R Safrulin (Russia) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2. **Doubles: Third round** (15) M Granollers (Sp) and F Zeballos (Bol) bt R Galloway (US) and L Harris (SA) 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (8-6); (1) W Koooh (Neth) and N Skupski (GB) bt M Purcell (Aus) and J Thompson (Aus) 6-3, 7-6 (7-3); A Behar (Uru) and A Pavlasek (Cz) bt (9) N Mektic (Cro) and M Pavic (Cro) 6-4, 3-6, 7-5; T Griekspoor (Neth) and B Stevens (Neth) bt (6) M Melo (Br) and J Peers (Aus) 7-5, 6-4; N Lammons (US) and J Withrow (US) bt (12) S Gilje (Bel) and J Vliegen (Bel) 6-3, 6-4; (6) R Bopanna (India) and M Ebden (Aus) bt D Pel (Neth) and R Stalder (US) 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (10-5); (10) K Krawietz (Ger) and T Pütz (Ger) bt (5) S González (Mex) and E Roger-Vasselin (Fr) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; (13) J Murray (GB) and M Venus (NZ) bt (4) H Nys (Monaco) and J Zielinski (Pol) 6-4, 6-3. **Women: Singles: Quarter-finals** E Svitolina (Ukr) bt (1) I Sviatek (Pol) 7-5, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2; M Voronousova (Cz) bt (4) J Pegula (US) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4. **Doubles: Third round** M Bouzkova (Cz) and S Sorribes Tormo (Sp) bt A Bonard (Hun) and G Minnen (Bel) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; (3) S Hunter (Aus) and E Mertens (Bel) wo M Kolodziejova (Cz) and M Voronousova (Cz); L Siegemund (Ger) and V Zvonareva (Russ) bt (2) C Gauff (US) and J Pegula (US) 6-3, 6-3. **Quarter-finals** (16) C Doehide (US) and Zhang Shuai (China) bt O Kalashnikova (Geo) and I Shymanovich (Bela) 6-4, 6-1; Hsieh Su-wei (Taiwan) and B Zahlavova Strycova (Cz) bt G Garcia (Fr) and L Stefan (Fr) 7-5, 6-4. **Mixed doubles:** **Quarter-finals** M Middlekoop (Neth) and A Sutijadi (Indo) bt M Arevalo (El Salvador) and M Kostyuk (Ukr) 7-5, 6-2; J Vliegen (Bel) and Xu Yifan (China) bt I Dodig (Cro) and L Chan (Taiwan) 7-6 (7-4), 6-2; (7) M Pavic (Cro) and L Kichenok (Ukr) bt Mahut (Fr) and A Daniilidis (Ka) 6-3, 6-4; **O' Meara (GB) and O Nicholls (GB)** bt (5) M Ebden (Aus) and E Perez (Aus) 7-5, 7-5. **Boys: Singles: Second round** (9) D Banch (US) bt V Frydrych (GB) 6-7 (6-8), 6-3, 6-3. **H Seager (GB)** bt Dhamme (India) 6-1, 6-4; (3) Zhou Yi (China) bt H Jefferson (GB) 4-6, 3-6, 7-6 (7-5); A Ghaboudi (Fr) bt J Razdil (It) 6-4, 6-2; K Bigun (US) bt F De Michele (It) 7-5, 6-3; (8) J Fonseca (Br) bt C Robertson (GB) 6-1, 6-4; (6) I Radulov (Bul) bt M Kriznik (Slovenia) 6-4, 5-7, 6-4; (16) A Melero Kretzer (Sp) bt R Ricci (Can) 6-4, 6-3; L Scibasi (It) bt P Iris (Ven) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; (5) Y Demin bt F Blaydes (GB) 6-3, 6-0; (2) R Pacheco Méndez (Mex) bt M Rottgering (Neth) 6-2, 6-2; (11) R Sakamoto (Japan) bt T Boogaard (Neth) 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5); N Budkov Kjaer (Nor) bt R Horovitz (US) 6-3, 6-3; (15) T Berketa (Pol) bt K Kang (US) 6-2, 6-2; (4) C Williams (US) bt S Eriksson (Swe) 6-1, 3-6, 6-4. **Girls: Doubles: First round** (9) R Stoiber (GB) and M Xu (GB) bt R Cooling (GB) and H Oluwadare (GB) 3-6, 6-4, 10-4; **H Oluwadare (GB) and M Stojsavljević (GB)** bt M Slama (US) and A Smekaljova (Cz) 7-5, 6-4; (7) N Bartunkova (Cz) and N Vargova (Slovakia) bt R Munk Mortensen (Den) and T Rabman (US) 6-2, 6-3; (8) E McDonald (GB) and L Moyano (Arg) bt Y Konstantinova (Bul) and T Kostovic (Serbia) 6-4, 6-4; A Harmon (US) and V Ray (US) bt A Grechkin (Russia) and G Greco Lucchina (It) 7-5, 3-6, 10-5; (2) R Jamrichova (Slovakia) and

D J Vilas, R P Jones, tP D Salt, C de Grandhomme, T Hartley, J M Blatherwick, T E Bailey and W S A Williams to bat.

Fall of wicket 1-4.

Bowling Porter 4-12-1; Cook 5-2-5-0; Harmer 3-0-11-0; Bracewell 2-0-5-0.

Umpires P J Hartley and S J O'Shaughnessy.

Middlesex v Northamptonshire

Northwood (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are three runs behind Middlesex

Northamptonshire First Innings 219

Second Innings

R S Vasconcelos b Higgins 22

E N Gay not out 21

J Broad c Simpson b Higgins 5

S M Whiteman not out 6

Extras (lb 1) 1

Total (2 wkts, 25 overs) 55

Fall of wickets 1-28, 2-44.

Bowling Roland-Jones 7-2-15-0; Helm 6-1-21-0; Higgins 7-2-11-2; Barber 5-2-7-0.

Middlesex First Innings (overnight 23-0)

M D Stoneman b White 51

E R Bamber b Sanderson 11

S D Robson c McManus b White 28

P J Malan c Gay b Sanderson 15

M D Holden lbw b Keogh 41

T J Moorees c Latham b Overton 6

B A Hutton not out 0

Extras (b 8, lb 9, nb 12) 29

Total (5 wkts, 78 overs) 248

Fall of wickets 1-28, 2-44.

Bowling Roland-Jones 7-2-15-0; Helm 6-1-21-0; Higgins 7-2-11-2; Barber 5-2-7-0.

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Sport

Semenya earns legal victory over Swiss

Athletics

Matt Lawton

Chief Sports Correspondent

World Athletics has said that rules introduced to protect fair competition in the female category will remain in place despite the European Court of Human Rights ruling that Caster Semenya had been treated unfairly by the Swiss legal system.

Semenya, a double Olympic champion over 800m, has been unable to compete as she refuses to comply with World Athletics regulations that force her to take testosterone-reducing medication because she was born with differences of sexual development (DSD). The 32-year-old filed a case against the government of Switzerland for not protecting her rights when she was contesting the DSD rules through the Swiss courts.

Under regulations introduced in 2018, athletes with DSD were allowed to compete in track events between 400m and the mile only if they underwent treatment to suppress testosterone. Since March, rules brought in by World Athletics require any relevant athletes to reduce their testosterone levels below a limit of 2.5 nmol/L for a minimum of 24 months to compete internationally in the female category in any event.

Semenya had twice tried and failed to overturn the rules; first at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and then the Swiss Supreme Court three years ago. The South African's appeal was not against World Athletics but the Swiss government, with the ECHR concluding that Semenya had not been protected from being discriminated against when the Swiss Supreme Court refused to overturn a decision by the CAS to uphold the World Athletics rules.

The ECHR found that Semenya's rights under Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which concerns discrimination, had been violated by Switzerland. The Swiss state was also found to have violated Article 13 in not providing Semenya effective remedy against discrimination.

An ECHR statement read: "The court found in particular that the applicant had not been afforded sufficient institutional and procedural safeguards in Switzerland to allow her to have her complaints examined effectively, especially since her complaints concerned substantiated and credible claims of discrimination as a result of her increased testosterone level caused by differences of sex development."

However, the statement added: "The court was unable to determine whether the DSD regulations, as applied in the applicant's case, could be considered a measure that was objective and proportionate to the aim pursued."

It is hard to see this as a victory for Semenya against her sport because the ECHR does not have jurisdiction over the World Athletics rules and its decision will not suddenly lead to Semenya returning to competition.

The seven-strong ECHR panel was split 4-3 in favour of Semenya, with World Athletics noting how it was "deeply divided" and stating that it will ask the Swiss government to refer the case to the ECHR's grand chamber for a "final and definitive decision".

A World Athletics statement read: "We remain of the view that the DSD regulations are a necessary, reasonable and proportionate means of protecting fair competition in the female category as the Court of Arbitration for Sport and Swiss Federal Tribunal both found, after a detailed and expert assessment of the evidence."



Semenya wins Commonwealth gold in 2018, the year that rules were introduced that would have forced her to undergo treatment to suppress her testosterone

A victory inspired by team-mate's death

David Walsh



Issoire

In the Centre de Press a temperature gauge says 38C. This is in the Laura Flessel sports hall in Issoire. In T-shirts soaked in perspiration we tap on our keyboards without complaint because on this of all days, we know there are worse things in life. Today was for Gino Mäder. Last month, Mäder, 26, went to the Tour de Suisse and never came home. He had talked enthusiastically of one day riding the Tour de France.

He crashed on a mountain descent during the fifth stage of the Swiss race and died at a hospital in Chur the next day. As well as a talented and successful rider, Mäder was a loved member of the Bahrain Victorious team. Caring about the melting glaciers, deforestation and the other impacts of climate change, he wasn't your common pro athlete.

Once, when racing in Bilbao, Mäder came across an abandoned dog. He stopped, made friends and brought the dog back to his home in Zürich where he and his girlfriend would take care of him. They named the dog Pello, after Gino's team-mate Pello Bilbao, and learnt that whatever had happened in the past, Pello didn't like to be left alone.

On Monday's rest day, Bilbao himself, a 33-year-old pro bike rider,

looked through the profile of Tuesday's 10th stage and reckoned it was going to be one of those frantic days at the Tour. So often, the stages through the Massif Central are the most brutal. Intense heat, heavy roads that sap your strength and one hill after another.

Five of the climbs were categorised, a further seven weren't. Between them they made the 167 kilometres from Vulcania to Issoire, a journey through hell, though it's hard to imagine hell being any hotter. This was the stage Bilbao targeted, the one he thought he could win and dedicate to the memory of his friend.

He's always been a good bike rider, Bilbao. Strong climber, skilful descender and blessed with good speed in the finish. The Tour doesn't always reward the deserving but here it did. Bilbao won the stage and through his performance, told us how he felt about Mäder. A victory borne out of tragedy and friendship and delivered in some style.

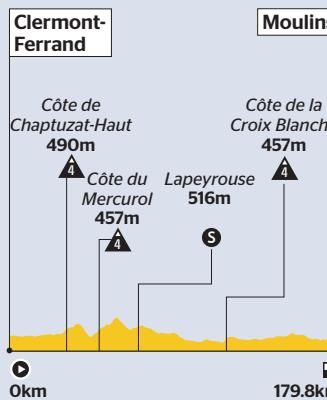
It was our good fortune that Bilbao could so lucidly explain the course of a crazily uncontrolled stage, he could have a drone flying just 25 metres above the peloton. He said they'd talked about this stage on the rest day and his team-mates turned up with the right attitude.

"We were expecting a hard day's racing and at a critical moment early in the race, we had five riders in the first 20. There was Matej (Mohoric), Fred (Wright), Mikel (Landa), Bau (Phil Bauhaus) and Jack (Haig). Every one of us was trying to go. Then came a point where I could see the guys from Jumbo

Stage 11 Today

Clermont-Ferrand - Moulins 179.8km

Start: 1.05pm, Expected finish: 5.19pm



needed a break to go away. That was my opportunity, my chance to go. I knew it was going to be difficult but I decided to go when everybody was on the limit."

Through the first 40 kilometres, the race raged. Given the heat and the big mountains still to come, it was compelling madness. With so much speed and the undulating roads, the peloton soon splintered and Tadej Pogačar's team-mates upped the tempo even more when they found Jonas Vingegaard with just one equipier for support.

In his yellow jersey, Vingegaard sped into Pogačar's slipstream; not a reunion, just one moment of

something that had never been interrupted.

Vingegaard and his Jumbo mates were happy to see Bilbao and his fellow 13-breakaways disappear. Can we all just settle down now? Not really because as the escapees built a two-minute lead, the Ineos team leaders thought that if that lead increased any more, Bilbao would leapfrog over Tom Pidcock and Carlos Rodríguez into fourth place.

It was a difficult one for Ineos as they had Michal Kwiatkowski in the break and as well as protecting their two general classification (GC) men, they are also desperate to win a stage. They rode for a time at the front, doing enough to limit the breakaways' lead.

All the while, Bilbao looked searchingly at his fellow breakaways. The Latvian Kristi Neilands, he thought, was the strongest of the group. He reckoned his best chance would be to beat Neilands in the sprint. Perhaps the Latvian rider feared this outcome, because with 53km to the finish, he attacked.

He rode smoothly away from the others, in perfect harmony with his bike and turning his pedals in a way that seemed effortless. The world of seeming enchantment but out in the hall, the real world

Bilbao points to the hashtag #rideforGino



Ricciardo returns with Alpha Tauri

Formula One

Alasdair Reid

Daniel Ricciardo, the veteran Australian driver who was dropped by McLaren at the end of last season, will make a shock return with Alpha Tauri after Nyck de Vries was dumped.

Ricciardo has lined up in 232 grands prix since his F1 debut in 2011, clocking up eight victories in that time. He has driven for a number of teams, but has a particularly strong link to the Red Bull stable, in which Alpha Tauri — previously known as Toro Rosso — is the junior team.

The 34-year-old failed to impress with McLaren after joining from Renault at the start of the 2021 season. He did win one race that year — the Italian Grand Prix at Monza — but was consistently outperformed by his teammate, Lando Norris. His performances in 2022 were even less noteworthy as he failed to score points in 14 of the season's 22 races and was released from his contract at the year's end.

Red Bull brought Ricciardo back on board as their main test driver at the start of this year. There had been speculation that he could replace Sergio Pérez as understudy to Max Verstappen after a number of unimpressive outings by the Mexican, especially in qualifying. However, Ricciardo's return will be at the expense of De Vries.

The 28-year-old has failed to finish higher than 12th during the ten races of his debut season in Formula One.

Alpha Tauri are bottom of the F1 constructors standings, with only two points — both of them provided by their other driver, Yuki Tsunoda. Ricciardo will make his return at the Hungarian Grand Prix on July 23.

does press-ups, awaiting its moment. Bilbao was quietly happy that Neilands went from so far out.

"Neilands made an impressive attack," Bilabo said. "He was the strongest in the group but he spent a lot of energy with the wind in his face. In the group behind we collaborated in the right way. Then in the last three kilometres, I knew I was the fastest, so I took the control, the responsibility. I closed the gap to (Ben) O'Connor.

"With cold blood I let Zimmerman make his sprint and I went on the wheel, then it was just full gas for the last 200 metres thinking of nothing. I crossed the line and I just put out all the anger inside of me and remembered the reason for this victory." He pointed to the "For Gino" printed on his Bahrain jersey, "A special one," he said. His rage was that one so young and so beautiful as Mäder should have lost his life.

Almost three minutes later, the GC group rolled into Issoire. Vingegaard 21st, Pogačar 27th. It was about the furthest apart they'd been on this dog-day afternoon.

Pogačar said: "The rest day seems a long time ago." Side by side, they warmed down in their cooling vests under a shelter. As they tried to ease the lactate from their legs, an onlooker said Pogačar looked fresher. The heat may be getting to everyone.

Kempton Park**Rob Wright**

6.00 TequilaMockingbird 8.00 Streetstorm
 6.30 Works Of Art (nb) 8.30 Mawkeb
 7.00 Middle Earth 9.00 Bhubezi
 7.30 Wholefthemoon

Going: standard to slow

Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best **Racing TV****6.00 Handicap (£4,187; 1m 3f) (8 runners)**

1 (4) 53602 TEQUILAMOCKINGBIRD 23 (CD) C Fellowes 4-10-2
 M Mortensen (7)

2 (20-1) GENESIUS 22 Sir M Prescott 6-10-2 **Morgan Cole**

3 (5) 0231- AFTA PARTY J15 (H,T) Syd Hosie 5-10-0 **Kaiya Fraser**

4 (3) 0250 SILVERSCAPE 51 (W,P,Q) R Teal 4-11-9 **Liam Wright (3)**

5 (1) 40032 NASIM 14 (B,H,M) Appleby 4-9-9 **Sharqi Mohd (5)**

6 (8) 40-10 SAINTE COLETTE 54 (P) H Candy 4-9-7 **Olivia Tubb (3)**

7 (7) 05460 PISTOLETTO 33 (P,C,D) J Ryan 6-9-5 **Adam Tracey (7)**

8 (6) 1-453 LEDNIKOV 29 (V,D) Furtado 5-9-3 **Elle-May Croot**

2-1 Genesis, 9-2 TequilaMockingbird, 5-1 Nasim, 6-1 Lednikov, 8-1 Afta Party, 10-1 Sainte Colette, 12-1 Silverscape, 6-1 Pistoletto.

Rob Wright's choice: TequilaMockingbird ran well when a close second at Wolverhampton **Dangers Pistoletto**, Nasim

6.30 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £5,346; 6f) (11)

1 (8) CALL ME THE BREEZE E Walker 9-2 **T Marquand**

2 (5) 0 DAMIA 82 K P De Fey 9-2 **H Davies (3)**

3 (4) IT'S SHOWTIME C Allen 9-2 **C Fallon**

4 (7) 60 LOVE YOURS 15 B Beckett 9-2 **H Crouch**

5 (1) NASSAU BAY I Furtado 9-2 **Elle-May Croot (7)**

6 (30) QUIET AFFAIR 23 (T) Miss A Murphy 9-2 **David Egan**

7 (11) RAAWAASI S & Crisford 9-2 **A Atzeni**

8 (3) SO OBSESSED M Botti 9-2 **Morgan Cole (7)**

9 (2) 6 WORKS OF ART 35 A Balding 9-2 **W Buick**

10 (9) ZARIELA S P C Woods 9-2 **R Havlin**

11 (10) 6 ZOUMMON 49 Ferguson 9-2 **J P Spencer**

11-4 Works Of Art, 4-1 Rawaasi, 9-2 Zoumon, 6-1 Call Me The Breeze, 10-1 Zariele, 10-1 Quiet Affair, 20-1 others.

Wright choice: Works Of Art needed the experience when sixth here on her debut **Dangers Zoumon**, Rawaasi

7.00 Novice Stakes (£20,616; 1m 3f) (7)

1 (5) 6 INKAMAN 54 A King 3-9-7 **A Atzeni**

2 (7) KERRY MOON A King 3-9-7 **J Crowley**

3 (1) 2 LION'S PRIDE 64 A & T Gosden 3-9-7 **R Havlin**

4 (3) 2 MIDDLE EARTH 25 J & T Gosden 3-9-7 **C Fallon**

5 (6) 5 STAR TURN 40 A King 3-9-7 **C Hutchinson**

6 (2) 32-6 THE GOAT 25 A Balding 3-9-7 **W Buick**

7 (4) 240 MANAM ZOON 20 R Hannon 3-9-2 **Doubtful**

Evens Lion's Pride, 2-1 Middle Earth, 5-1 The Goat, 16-1 Kerry Moon, 20-1 Inkaman, 50-1 Star Turn.

Wright choice: Middle Earth was a good second at Sandown Park; he can see off his stablemate **Danger Lion's Pride**

7.30 Handicap (£7,731; 2m) (8)

1 (8) 05130 FIRST EMPEROR 18 (T,D) J Ryan 4-9-9 **R Havlin**

2 (7) 10564 LEGENDARY DAY 11 (P,T,D) A Keatley 5-9-7 **T Marquand**

3 (4) 0-304 ZAIN NIGHTS 31 (H) & R Charlton 4-9-7 **W Buick**

4 (3) 0220 CITIZEN GENERAL 11 (V) D Unspur 4-9-4 **A Atzeni**

5 (5) 0-352 MOTAZZEN 35 (T,V) B Baker 5-9-0 **P Cosgrave**

6 (2) 4-213 WHOLEFTHEMOON 25 (CD) R Hughes 4-9-0 **David Egan**

7 (1) 25-14 MELAKAZ 47 R Stephens 5-9-0 **J Crowley**

8 (6) 06000 FAIRMOON 17 (B) Charlie Johnston 5-8-13 **F Norton**

4-1 Wholefthemoon, 5-1 Motazzan, Melakaz, 11-2 First Emperor, 6-1 Legendary Day, Citizen General, 7-1 Zain Nights, 14-1 Fairmax.

Wright choice: Wholefthemoon, third at Sandown, will relish this stiffer test **Dangers First Emperor**, Legendary Day

8.00 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,140; 1m) (13)

1 (6) 3550 KANGAROO 36 Tom Clover 9-11 **A Atzeni**

2 (9) 3-425 HAZEL BEAR 152 (T) J Osborne 9-11 **David Egan**

3 (11) 46-0 TENRAI 28 Miss A Murphy 9-9 **F Larson (3)**

4 (10) 30-05 ETERNAL FAME 15 (P) M Murphy & M Keady 9-8 **A Rawlinson**

5 (13) 12225 OBAMA ARMY 13 (V,D) J Cannon 9-8 **G Bass (3)**

6 (3) 0-50 FAST AFFAIR 27 J Fanshawe 9-8 **R Havlin**

7 (2) 5040 HILDEGARD 27 (P) A Watson 9-6 **H Crouch**

8 (8) 0-025 STREETSTORM 20 (BF) E Dunlop 9-9 **T Marquand**

9 (1) 10400 CHALK MOUNTAIN 20 (P,B,F) D Davis 9-4-9 **Kaiya Fraser (5)**

10 (12) 0440 J J STINGLETON 6 (P,D) F Davis 9-4-9 **Kaiya Fraser (5)**

11 (7) 05030 ZEBRA STAR 11 (H,P) Miss A Murphy 9-4 **G Wood**

12 (4) 60-00 BELIEVE YOU ME 27 H Main 9-4 **C Fallon**

13 (5) 04322 DOUBLE DOWN 20 (V) T Ward 9-1 **J Crowley**

5-1 Double Down, 11-2 Streetsong, 6-1 Hazel Bear, Chalk Mountain, Obama Army, 12-1 J Stingleton, Kangaroo, Fast Affair.

Wright choice: Streetsong raced too keenly when tried over further last time **Dangers Chalk Mountain**, Double Down

8.30 Handicap (Div I: £3,140; 1m) (9)

1 (2) 12000 GIVE A LITTLE BACK 23 (BF) S Curran 4-9-10 **R Havlin**

2 (7) 00000 MOAI 28 (P,T,D) I Furtado 5-9-9 **Elle-May Croot (7)**

3 (4) 0-0400 EMINENT HIPSTER 29 (P,D) P Chamings 5-9-9 **H Crouch**

4 (9) 65055 MAWKIB 15 (T,V,D) M Appleby 5-9-7 **T Marquand**

5 (1) 0-60- SHOWLAW SPIRIT 404 G Baker 4-9-6 **P Cosgrave**

6 (3) 05-10 WELFOO 61 (D) J Butler 9-9-5 **P Wood**

7 (5) 01240 DYNAKITE 91 (D) L Carter 5-9-3 **P Bradley (3)**

8 (6) 20646 LOS CAMACHOS 16 (B,C) J Gallagher 8-9-0 **Kaiya Fraser (5)**

9 (8) 00-00 LONG TIME COMIN 127 M Attwater 4-8-4 **Georgia Dobie (3)**

11-4 Give A Little Back, 7-2 Welfoo, 5-1 Showlaw Spirit, Los Camachos, 7-1 Dynakite, 8-1 Mawkeb, 16-1 Eminent Hipster, 20-1 Moai, 50-1 Long Time Comin.

Wright choice: Mawkeb should appreciate this return to the all-weather **Dangers Give A Little Back**, Showlaw Spirit

Blinkered first time: Bath 8.45 Private Bryan.

Catterick 4.40 Valstar, Cawthornes Gem.

Lingfield Park 3.00 Stintino Sunset, Saratoga Spirit. Yarmouth 2.20 Good Humor. 4.20 Azeezan.

Sport The Ashes

'Foakes is top class but he has missed chances as well'

Are England right to stick with Bairstow? Is it all over for Warner? And will Anderson play again? Times cricket writers answer questions posed by subscribers

1.OJ Streets

Do you think Ben Foakes has become a better and better keeper the less he plays? His fan club seems to think he's infallible. He really isn't and he's made plenty of errors when he has played. I also think he's very poor on reviews – an important skill these days.

Mike Atherton

It is usually the way, that a player's reputation improves when he is out of the team. Foakes is high class but you are right, he has missed chances when he has played. All wicketkeepers do.

Elizabeth Ammon

I actually disagree he's poor on reviews. Or at least he's no worse than Jonny Bairstow on them. My issue is not with Bairstow keeping but more that he doesn't seem to be moving quite right because of the injury. There was a graphic I saw that shows he hasn't got his weight distributed evenly because of the broken leg. I wonder if the injury has an impact.

Simon Wilde

You're right that Foakes is not infallible, but he is very good. There have been some concerns about his batting ability against the fastest bowling, but then you can say that about a lot of players.

2. G Jones

England are rubbish at Lord's, and have been since before my dad was born. Do we need two Lord's Tests every summer when there are deserving grounds that miss out on big games every year?

Atherton

They have been much better at Lord's in more recent times. I don't think Lord's should have two Tests automatically, especially if the membership behaves as it did last week, and the arrival of Cardiff, Durham and Southampton as international grounds, along with Somerset/Gloucestershire etc adds pressure on the process. However, Lord's one factor is the touring team: ask the touring team which is the one ground they want to play at and the answer would be Lord's.

Ammon

A large part of it is that touring teams really do like to play there. They like the opportunity to get their name on the honours board, they like the history, the prestige, the Long Room and the food. But I would only let them have two Tests if there are seven Tests in each summer which I believe there should be (over two series).

Wilde

I don't think England should play fewer Tests at Lord's because their record there is sketchy. Rather, other big grounds deserve games and routinely one of Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham and Birmingham misses out on even one Test each year. For the next Ashes in 2027, there is not one match in the north, no Leeds or Manchester, which are both great venues for Aussie Tests.

3. Chris Gott

James Anderson may soon be fit to return, but is putting him back in the team a good idea? Josh Tongue has proven to be a more than adequate replacement, but should we not also be looking for a full-time replacement, and have we found him in Tongue?

Atherton

It's amazing to me how short-term readers' opinions are. One bad game and it's curtains, one good game and a player is a world-beater. Obviously, you must recognise when a player needs to be replaced, but those decisions need careful attention. Two indifferent games on slow, flat pitches don't prove anything about Anderson. Tongue bowled well at Lord's though.

Ammon

I really would advise against writing off Anderson. We've done that before and he's come back better. I think they'll play him at Old Trafford for his local knowledge, the fact that he'll have had two weeks off and he'll probably prefer the conditions to Edgbaston or Lord's.

Wilde

England need to pick the best XI to win at Old Trafford. They tried planning for the future before and realised Stuart Broad and Anderson were still the best. A lot depends on the pitch: if it's another Kryptonite pitch like the first and second Tests there won't be much for Anderson, but I suspect it won't be.

4. Douglas Campbell

What changes would you make to the Australia XI at Old Trafford? Should Warner go?

Atherton

David Warner to play. Mitchell Marsh to play. Josh Hazlewood to play for Scott Boland.

Ammon

They really need to play a spinner but Hazlewood in for Boland and I expect Marsh will play. I wonder if they will get Cameron Green back in somehow.

Wilde

Hazlewood for Boland is a no-brainer.

Bairstow v Foakes

Wicketkeeping

53	Tests	20
100	Innings	38
204	Dismissals	63
2.04	Dismissals per inn	1.657
191	Catches	57
13	Stumpings	6
	Batting	
93	Tests	20
165	Innings	36
5623	Runs	934
36.51	Average	32.20
167*	High score	113*
24	Half centuries	4
12	Centuries	2

Keep everyone else. Green is a fine fielder and slightly better bowler than Marsh, but Marsh has to play after his runs in Leeds: Green could not have played those innings.

5. J Cole

What sort of pitches will best suit England over the final two games?

Atherton

I'd have faith in the team and ask the groundsman to prepare the best cricket pitch he can. If the players are good enough, the best team will win out on good surfaces. Headingley was the best pitch of the three by far.

Ammon

Although there's been a lot of rain in the past couple of weeks, the pitches are still pretty dry. But ideally they'll be ones that are like Headingley, a good pitch that produces good cricket.

Wilde

England have lost on pitches that were slow, and won on the one that had more life. Before the series, the thought was that if conditions favoured the faster bowlers, Australia would do better and England's attacking batsmen would struggle, but Headingley showed Bazball batting can have a premium in such circumstances. So, two more pitches with something for the seamers please.

6. Anne Davies

There seems to be a shortage of bowlers of real pace at the moment, but there must surely be raw talent out there at the schools, particularly state schools, where cricket may not be played. Are there programmes for cricket, especially in areas where the cost of equipment may be a barrier?

Atherton

It's a huge issue. When I was at primary school, cricket was still played in a major way in state schools and coaching was offered free by the local education authority. That does not exist now and cricket's cost needs to be tackled. Counties must make their pathways free and anything that reduces cost of time and money to parents is good.

Ammon

Chance to Shine run an excellent primary school programme but it's not really there for talent scouting. The clubs need more support to attract children. The All Stars and Dynamo programmes are a start but talent scouting is an issue across the country.

Wilde

With cricket in schools so scarce, local clubs seem to do the heavy lifting and these vary in quality. An express bowler like Mark Wood is rare; English cricket has produced very few of his type, partly as our climate does not lend itself to hard pitches that reward someone for bending their back. The ECB does run fast-bowling programmes though.

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Chris Woakes batting per position							
Position	Matches	Innings	Total Runs	Average	Strike Rate	High Score	
No 6	3	4	105	35	53.29	58	
No 7	5	6	281	70.25	68.7	137*	
No 8	32	49	935	22.8	47.72	66	
No 9	12	17	396	30.46	56.65	61*	

How his Test batting record compares

England	Matches	Innings	Total Runs	Average	Strike Rate	High Score
Woakes	46	76	1,717	28.14	52.60	137*
Wood	29	49	681	17.02	69.27	52
Robinson	19	31	352	13.53	55.34	42
Anderson	181	253	1,327	9.21	39.75	81
Broad	165	241	3,640	18.1	65.18	169
Tongue	2	2	20	10	66.66	19

Australia	Matches	Innings	Total Runs	Average	Strike Rate	High Score
Cummins	53	75	1,054	16.46	42.24	63
Starc	80	115	1,937	21.52	63.67	99
Murphy	5	8	70	10	55.11	41
Boland	10	11	47	6.71	36.43	20
Lyon	122	153	1,374	12.6	50	47
Hazlewood	61	73	451	11.56	45.1	39

Fourth Ashes Test

Emirates Old Trafford
Starts July 19, 11am
TV: Sky Sports Main Event. Radio: BBC 5 Live Extra

Woakes made a crucial contribution of 32 not out with the bat at Headingley on

'Wizard' looked done

Steve James

The ball was full and very wide from Mitchell Starc, and Chris Woakes simply could not resist the invitation to drive, going after it with the sort of abandon that Bazball not only permits but positively encourages.

Thankfully for Woakes and England, no contact with the edge of the bat was made. Starc smiled, as did Woakes while practising the stroke with a good deal more control. It was the very first ball that Woakes faced on Sunday, with his side six wickets down and with 80 runs still required for a third-Test win needed to keep the Ashes series alive.

At the time into the notebook went only one word — "nervy". Of course Woakes was nervy, not only because a whole cricketing public was willing him to support Harry Brook in a match-winning partnership, but because he had endured such a torrid time at the crease in the first innings.

It was probably surprise as much as anything that led to that windy waf. Woakes was doubtless expecting the short stuff that had so discomfited him in that first knock at Headingley.

As a result, the Australians gave him one off the mark to his sixth ball — not some chivalrous gesture from a bygone age but so he could face the next over in which they fancied taking his wicket fairly swiftly. And therein lies the moral

of the Chris Woakes story: do not underestimate the "wizard" (a nickname since an England Under-19 tour when the squad were playing darts and had to give each other names).

When the Australia captain, Pat Cummins, reintroduced himself to the attack to pepper Woakes, Australia not only sensed victory, but almost expected it. Initially, Woakes did little to disabuse them of that notion, two edges landing just safely. Was it only a matter of time before the seventh wicket?

Not to Brook, it wasn't. On Sunday night, the ECB's social media team posted a lovely video of Brook and Woakes sitting on the outfield, discussing their partnership of 59, the highest of England's second innings. It was a wonderfully relaxed and human conversation, the sort that could easily have taken place with a beer.

"I knew that they were going to get you on strike, so I was trying to get you on strike," Brook said with a smile. "I had complete faith in you that you would face whatever they had. Even if they bowled bumpers to you, I was going to get you on strike."

Woakes usually favours the off side but he had the wit to realise that, to Cummins in particular, it was prudent to move inside the line of the ball, however unnatural that felt and however awkward it looked when twice scooping balls over short leg for a single.



Sunday afternoon, and looks set to get the chance to have an impact at Old Trafford after an unchanged squad was named

in Tests – now he's undroppable

Brook departed with 21 runs still to get. "That was a bit stressful because I thought he was cruising it," Woakes said afterwards. But in Mark Wood, Woakes found a willing ally and a great friend, as two of the most popular and personable cricketers England has ever produced raced their team over the line. That Woakes scythed the winning runs through the off side was entirely fitting.

Woakes removed his gloves to respectfully shake hands with the opposition and umpires, ruffling his hair a little as he walked off and tapping his bat towards the Western Terrace in appreciation of their vociferous support.

It was the most understated of celebrations from the most understated of cricketers. Woakes knows his place. As he said with typical modesty when being interviewed by a young girl in a social media clip from Warwickshire: "I'm OK at batting, not as good as the proper batsmen."

As an all-rounder it has been Woakes's mighty misfortune to enjoy a career that has coincided with that of Ben Stokes and,



Woakes has bided his time but made the most of his chance with England

as a swing and seam bowler whose skill in home conditions is such that he has taken 100 Test wickets here at 22.69, one that has overlapped with those of James Anderson and Stuart Broad.

Woakes has won two World Cups (50-over in 2019 and T20 last year), has made a Test century at Lord's (against India in 2018) and on Sunday, it was easy to think back to another wonderful match-winning performance with the bat, when he and Jos Buttler put on 139 to win the Test against Pakistan at Old Trafford in 2020.

Woakes does not possess a magnificent record against Australia. In 13 Tests he has taken 33 wickets at 42.27. With the bat he has never made a fifty, but this all-round contribution of excellence at Headingley will certainly assuage some of that disappointment.

You did wonder whether he would have another opportunity against anyone in Test cricket, let alone Australia. He is 34 after all and his previous Test had been so long ago that the term Bazball had not even been invented.

When there was that curious episode before the first Test of the summer against Ireland, with Woakes being put up for media duties—which almost always means said person is playing—before Josh Tongue hit a few batsmen in the nets to win the nod from nowhere, you really did think that was it.

But Woakes is classically uncomplaining and bided his time. Belatedly summoned for Headingley, he found a pitch to his liking, one with bounce and carry. In the first innings he dismissed Marnus Labuschagne, Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh. In the second he got rid of Usman Khawaja and then, when asked to open up in wonderful bowling conditions on Saturday, Marsh and Alex Carey. There are no rabbits there.

And then there were those runs. It was Duncan Fletcher who first introduced the idea to English cricket of the importance of lower-order runs. Many comparisons have already been made between this series and 2005, when Fletcher was head coach and when he put huge faith in the left-arm spinner Ashley Giles, as much for his runs at No 8 as his steady bowling. By the same token, having Woakes at No 8 at Headingley made a huge difference.

In five Tests at Old Trafford, Woakes averages 47 with the bat (including that innings of 84 not out with Buttler in 2020) and 18.47 with the ball. England cannot leave him out next week.

Knight: ODI pressure will be on Australia

Women's Ashes

Elizabeth Ammon

Heather Knight insists that all the pressure is on Australia heading into the final stretch of the Women's Ashes—despite her England side knowing that one slip-up will cost them the trophy.

England kept their hopes of regaining the Ashes alive by winning the T20 leg of the multi-format series, but they will need to win all three one-day internationals.

Knight, the England captain, admitted that her side are still "the underdogs" before the one-day series which begins today in Bristol. Australia lead the series 6-4 on points with two points available for each ODI and only need one win from the three-match series to retain the Ashes.

Australia won the one-off Test match and then the first of the T20s to go 6-0 up on points but Knight believes that England winning the past two matches has shifted the pressure on to Australia.

"We had to win five games on the trot to win the Ashes, so I guess the pressure was on us as we were massive underdogs at

Knight and England kept their hopes alive with a pair of T20 victories

that point but the pressure's all on them now. If we can keep doing what we're doing, keep ramping up that pressure a little bit," Knight, 32, said. "We're still the underdogs in the context of the whole series but I feel like the pressure is not massively on us."

It will be a big ask for Knight's team. Australia are dominant in the ODI format. Since losing in the semi-final of the 2017 World Cup, they have played 45 ODIs and won 43 of them including their past 15 in a row. In the past five years, India are the only team to have beaten them in this format.

The opening batter Tammy Beaumont, 32, returns to the side after her double century in the Test match at Trent Bridge and fast bowler Lauren Filer is set to make her ODI debut after impressing on international debut in the Test match. Filer, 21, brings genuine pace—in excess of 75mph—and gets good bounce.

Knight hopes that the wave of excitement after the men's Test at Headingley is something her team can tap into. "It was great to see the guys win. I think they have actually been quite parallel series they obviously lost the first two games which were very close as well," she said.

All three ODIs are sold out—the first time this has happened for a women's one-day series in England.



England stick with Ali at No 3

CONTINUED FROM BACK

than a year at Headingley, taking six wickets and hitting the winning runs. The three-wicket victory has fuelled belief in the England dressing room that they can go on and win the series.

"It [belief] has always been there," Woakes, 34, said. "In that dressing room the belief is we can win 3-2. I'd imagine when you're so close to getting something the harder it gets and the Aussies will be feeling it now. Once you get so close to something it's actually hard to get over the line."

"We've got to turn up in Manchester and put in another performance. They're a bloody good side. We're going to have to be at our best to beat them again."

"It literally doesn't get any better than that [hitting the winning runs], I don't think. The feeling of that roar, the

Western Terrace going mad. Personally, in my biased opinion, it would have been better if I was doing it in front of the Hollies [Stand at Edgbaston] but it is special. If you could bottle that up for ever and come back to it, you would."

Players and coaches from both teams are having a week's break, with some having gone on short holidays to Europe, and they will meet up again in Manchester on Sunday.

Australia are likely to make at least one change, with Josh Hazlewood returning to the side in place of Scott Boland. The all-rounder Mitchell Marsh is likely to keep his place despite Cameron Green returning to full fitness.

England squad for fourth Ashes Test
Ben Stokes (capt), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Dan Lawrence, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root, Josh Tongue, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

Fury to take on Ngannou

Boxing Tyson Fury has announced a clash against the mixed martial arts fighter Francis Ngannou in a boxing contest on October 28 in Saudi Arabia—but the Briton's WBC heavyweight title will not be at stake.

Fury most recently fought in December, stopping Derek Chisora, but talks over an undisputed world title fight against Oleksandr Usyk broke down this year.

While Usyk defends his WBA, IBF and WBO crowns against Daniel Dubois next month, his fellow world champion will go up against someone with no professional boxing record.

Ngannou built a reputation as a formidable puncher in becoming UFC heavyweight champion.

"[He] is supposed to be the hardest puncher. Let's see how he reacts when he gets hit by the Big GK," Fury said.

Royal Birkdale hosts Open

Golf The 2026 Open Championship will be staged at Royal Birkdale, tournament organisers announced yesterday.

The Southport venue has hosted the Open ten times, with Jordan Spieth lifting the Claret Jug on the most recent visit in 2017.

That victory gave the former Masters and US Open champion Spieth the third leg of a career grand-slam and he joined the likes of Peter Thomson, Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson and Padraig Harrington in winning the Open at Royal Birkdale.

The 2026 Open, which will be the 154th Championship, is set to be held on July 16-19.

This year's Open gets under way at Royal Liverpool next week, with Royal Troon hosting in 2024 and Royal Portrush in 2025.

Sport

When I lived in the Peak District one of the chaps down our road, Frank, used to shoot magpies in the fields at the back of our garden. You can do that in Derbyshire, during lambing season. Magpies are beautiful to us, but they're vicious and cruel. They attack defenceless lambs and eat their soft tissue, such as the eyes, and tongue. Magpies are classified legally as pests, or even vermin. Not so appalled by the shooting now, are you?

Anyway, Frank was a singular sort of chap, as we discovered when he put his house on the market. He would meet prospective buyers at the door, effectively barring entry. "Right," he'd say, "the price of this house is 45 grand. Have you got that, because I'm not taking a penny less. So don't come in if you're wasting my time." And sometimes, rattled, the viewers would scuttle off without getting even a toe across the threshold, and Frank could return to decimating the magpie population in peace.

Because there's nothing worse than a time-waster. Nothing worse than those couples who just enjoy having a nose around homes they can't possibly afford, or arrive with the sole intention of underbidding, selling the owner short. That's what Bayern Munich are doing with Harry Kane. They can't afford Harry Kane.

● A ten-minute red-card review system will feature in this year's Rugby World Cup. Obvious acts of foul play, which could be met with a red or yellow card, will be considered while a player is in the sin-bin. A television match official will then decide whether it is a lesser offence — in which case the sin-bin will suffice — or a red card, with the player then unable to return. It's a very good idea. Then again, rugby has always displayed more common sense around disciplinary issues than football. In fact, most sports have.

They've no intention of buying Harry Kane, not for what he is truly worth. They are wasting everyone's time and Daniel Levy, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, must be quietly furious. All this talk of Munich is unsettling Spurs' player, just as preparation for the new season begins. For Kane, Bayern represent the chance of team honours and his head may be turned. For Tottenham and their new head coach, Ange Postecoglou, they are nothing but an unwelcome distraction, unless serious — which they can't be at these prices.

Bayern's first offer was £59.58 million, so slightly more than Tottenham paid for Tangy Ndombele — a player rated so highly that he spent last season out on loan — in 2019. They have subsequently returned with £68.5 million, which is more than Manchester United paid for Mason Mount, but less than they gave Leicester City for Harry Maguire.

For a player of Kane's ability, it's an insult, and Bayern must know that too. Even if Tottenham spent every penny of the transfer fee, even if they spent £20 million more, where would they find a replacement at Kane's level? Levy may as well let him see out the final year of his contract and let him go for nothing. Another season without a trophy, or without European football in 2024-25, could have a more negative impact than any positives from Bayern's fee.

Chelsea got £59.58 million from Arsenal for Kai Havertz after a rotten season. Kane, by contrast, never fails. He has scored 216 goals in his past 316 Premier League appearances, and between 17 and 30 goals in each of his previous nine Premier League campaigns. Thomas Tuchel, the Bayern head coach, is correct in identifying him as the player who will keep the rest of the Bundesliga at arm's length, but the funds that the German champions are prepared to put

Stage set for mother of all comebacks

Caroline Wozniacki was in good company warming up for return from her 'retirement', writes Owen Slot

If the story of the day yesterday was all about triumphant mothers, then on No 12 Court was the next chapter in the book.

Elina Svitolina, 28, had been stealing the show on Centre Court. Out on No 12, away from the stress and the drama and the teeming crowds, Caroline Wozniacki was having a bit of a laugh in the ladies' invitation doubles event. Though this wasn't really fair, was it?

These invitational events are the light entertainment, a chance to spot some old favourites and witness how well their game has held up in the professional player's afterlife, when lights have gone out and the roars have died down.

Some interesting conclusions here: Johanna Konta, 32, another new mother, hasn't been working too hard on her game but seems to have embraced a beautifully carefree approach. Laura Robson, meanwhile, still hits some mean ground strokes, a reminder of how cruel were the injuries and the fate that robbed the 29-year-old of a full career. If only her body could cope with the rigours of the game again.

On the other side of the net from Robson was a player who genuinely believes that she can handle the professional life of the tour again — and this was Wozniacki. And this is why it wasn't really fair.

Kim Clijsters clocked this at Roland Garros last month, in the "Legends" invitational section, when she found herself admiring Wozniacki's form. "It was pretty obvious that she was at a different level to most of us," she said. It all made sense three weeks later when Wozniacki announced that she wasn't in it for the good times and a bit of nostalgia. She was making a full comeback.

So she was playing in the hit-and-giggle section yesterday but in three and a

bit weeks' time, she'll be playing her first professional match in her first professional event for 3½ years.

No one had seen this coming. Wozniacki, 33, retired in January 2020. She had been perpetually struggling with fitness, plus she wanted to start a family. Now, two kids later, she has reassessed.

When some players reach the end of the road and get out of the game, it is often with a sense of relief, the happy embrace of an escape from the anxieties and the pressure, the travelling and the relentless. After baby No 2, it started to dawn on Wozniacki that she felt very different.

"I started hitting a couple of times a week to see how my body felt," she said. "All of a sudden I find myself hitting it as well as I ever have. It kind of went from there. I started toying a bit with the idea, talked to the family about it and everyone thought it was a great idea."

Wozniacki was talking yesterday at a roll-call of the great old faces in these invitational events. Much of the talk was focussed on her, on the surprise she was bringing to the game and on her chances of success.

"After being No 1 in the world," Sania Mirza, the former doubles world No 1 and Indian No 1, said, "I don't think she's going to settle for being 50."

Clijsters, one of a very elite group of mothers to have won a grand-slam title, talked of a sense of "guilt" that many working mothers might recognise. "Sometimes you have to leave the hotel room when your baby's sick," she said. "You don't see that on court."

What is really exciting here is the impact that Wozniacki might have on the women's game. This is a player who held the world No 1 spot for 71 weeks. How does that look, now, when you are 33 years old and out of the game for so long and when the women's game has started to rebuild around three strong dominant players, Iga Swiatek, Elena Rybakina and Aryna Sabalenka.

In Wozniacki's brief hiatus, women's tennis has become a more high-intensity sport. Yet Clijsters can see exactly where she could establish herself again: "She has such great legs; she can defend so well. She can make it tough for a lot of the harder hitters — the Sabalenkas, Rybakinas — who aren't as consistent."



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND

Wozniacki stood out from the other mothers she shared the court with

Wozniacki can see a way too. "There are a lot of good players out there," she said. "But I played in an era with the greatest of all-time — Serena — and she's not around anymore. So that feels good to me at the moment!"

Serena Williams, 41, a trailblazer in so many respects, was another who came back on tour as a mother. The difficulties of bringing a baby on the tour are vast, though the game is increasingly adapting to make it possible. Another former world No 1, Angelique Kerber, 35, is set to make a return too.

There are others who will be watching Wozniacki's progress with interest. The news broke yesterday that Naomi Osaka, 25, another world No 1, had just

given birth to her first. Last week, the same news belonged to Ashleigh Barty, 27, yet another world No 1.

We don't know who will be back, but just imagine how exciting the women's game could be if they all did. The history of women's tennis has a long chapter about careers that were ended because motherhood made that necessary — yet that doesn't have to be the case anymore.

Svitolina demonstrated yesterday what can be achieved. Wozniacki was meanwhile having fun on No 12 Court, but next month the laughing stops. As she said herself: "I'm too competitive to just show up and not feel like I'm going to be one of the best players out there."

McIlroy's Dubai meeting with Al-Rumayyan revealed

CONTINUED FROM BACK

activities, including the 9/11 attack on our nation".

"Today's hearing is about much more than the game of golf," subcommittee chairman Richard Blumenthal said at the hearing. "It's about how a brutal, repressive regime can buy influence — indeed even take over — a cherished American institution simply to cleanse its public image. It is also about hypocrisy, how vast sums of money can induce individuals and institutions to betray their values and supporters, or perhaps reveal a lack of values from the beginning. It's about other sports and institutions that could fall prey, if leaders let it be all about the money."

Dunne stressed the PGA Tour will

retain control of the new for-profit entity, despite Al-Rumayyan being chairman. Jay Monahan, the PGA Tour's commissioner would serve as its chief executive. The documents showed Dunne had initially declined to enter talks after being emailed on December 8 by Roger Devlin, a British businessman, who wrote that Al-Rumayyan and Amanda Staveley, chief executive of PCP Capital Partners, wanted to "help find a solution to the issues that divide LIV and PGA [Tour]". Devlin also said Al-Rumayyan would establish a compensation fund for players that stayed loyal to the PGA Tour, and revealed the PIF governor's meeting with McIlroy.

Rory made it clear in accepting the meeting he was speaking only for himself, although he believes his views are

broadly shared by Tiger and other top players — he also [emphasised] he was seeking no financial gain, he was simply trying to unify the game," Devlin wrote.

Devlin contacted Dunne again in January, warning the "Saudi position is hardening", with the PGA Tour determining the PIF was prepared to spend another \$5 billion on LIV. It appears that the financial pressure eventually caused Dunne to instigate contact with Al-Rumayyan in April. Two days after an initial meeting in London, PCP Capital Partners sent the Tour a slide show titled "The Best of Both Worlds", detailing proposals for a potential alliance. It also suggested LIV players receive retrospective world ranking points, "unfettered access" to majors, and become eligible again for the Ryder Cup.

None of the proposals were included in the framework. The PGA Tour's attempts to add a clause stating Norman would "cease" working on LIV within a month of "the management transition to the PGA Tour", were also not included. However, Price said at the hearing "it would make no sense" for Norman to stay if the deal goes through.

The deal remains under discussion, with several hurdles to clear, including another investigation by the US Department of Justice Antitrust Division. "Looking at the future, you're not out of the woods," Blumenthal said. "They're going to continue to have a bucket full of money and are going to continue to wield the influence they do, and whatever the good intention and rhetoric is now, you still have to reach a deal."

Newcastle edge closer to signing £35m Barnes

Football Harvey Barnes's potential transfer to Newcastle United from Leicester City has moved a step closer with the two clubs engaging in fresh talks over the past 24 hours to conclude a deal for the 25-year-old.

A fee of about £35 million could be agreed this week. The Leicester winger is Eddie Howe's primary target, after the arrival of midfielder Sandro Tonali for £55 million from AC Milan.

If the move for Barnes is concluded — and the player is said to be keen on a switch to St James' Park — it is believed that Newcastle will have spent their net transfer budget for this summer. They would then be relying on player sales to generate further income, because of the constraints of Financial Fair Play.

Barnes scored 13 Premier League goals last season for a Leicester side that were relegated on the final day of the season. That figure, his age and availability have appealed to Howe and Newcastle's recruitment team.

Newcastle explored the possibility of signing Barnes last summer but were put off by Leicester's £50 million valuation. However, after relegation there is an acceptance that the figure will have to come down, with a fee in the region of £35 million thought to be more realistic, although it could rise if Barnes is successful in the North East.

Van der Sar still 'stable'

Edwin van der Sar's agent has said his situation is "under control" after the former Manchester United goalkeeper suffered a bleed on the brain on Friday (Charlotte Duncker writes).

The 52-year-old was admitted to intensive care for treatment while on holiday in Croatia.

"Edwin is still in the intensive care unit, but is stable," his wife Annemarie said. "He is not in life-threatening danger. We have to wait patiently to see how his situation will develop."

England match moved

England's Euro 2024 qualifier against Ukraine in September will be played in Wroclaw in Poland.

Gareth Southgate's men have enjoyed a 100 per cent start to European Championship qualification, with four wins from their four group C matches.

England's next qualifier is on September 9 away to Ukraine, who have been forced to host matches away from their homeland since Russia's invasion.

It has been confirmed that the match will be held at the 45,000-capacity Tarczynski Arena.

'Alarming' rise of abuse

There were 1,007 reports of discriminatory behaviour in domestic football last season, a figure that the Kick It Out organisation described as alarming (Martin Hardy writes).

The anti-discrimination body released figures yesterday that showed reports of online abuse have increased by 279 per cent on the previous 12 months.

Almost half (49.3 per cent) of those reports were for racism, in both the professional game, at grassroots football and on social media.

Sport Wimbledon

Svitolina dedicates her surprise victory to Ukraine soldiers

Iga Swiatek (Pol, 1)	5	7⁷	2
Elina Svitolina (Ukr)	7	6⁵	6

Rick Broadbent

Sport's role as the great distractor was laid bare in an emotional Centre Court cauldron and post-match interview at Wimbledon. A blue and yellow ribbon in the loser's cap, and a feather in the Ukrainian winner's, tennis moved into unusual territory as Elina Svitolina surged into the semi-finals.

Less than nine months after giving birth and nearly 17 after Russia invaded her homeland, Svitolina made the Wimbledon last four for the second time by defeating the Polish No 1 seed, Iga Swiatek, 7-5, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, in a coruscating drama. The 28-year-old wild card from Odesa lauded her opponent-cum-friend and then made it clear she was doing this for others and mothers. Referencing the soldiers fighting Russian invaders, she said: "I can't thank them enough for their bravery, for what they are going through. All Ukrainians — we are here to help them win this war."

Svitolina and Gaël Monfils, the French player who said he romanced his wife with magic and card tricks, became parents in October. Remarkably, she was back within five months and now has the chance to join the 1980 champion, Evonne Goolagong-Cawley, as the only mothers to win Wimbledon since the First World War.

"I think having a child, war, has made me a different person," she said after revealing she planned to celebrate with a beer. "I think war made me stronger. Mentally, I don't take situations as a disaster. There are worse things in life."

The lack of post-match pleasantries

4
Svitolina is third woman to beat four grand-slam winners (V Williams 1R, S Kenin 3R, V Azarenka 4R, I Swiatek QF) in a single major since 1975

between Ukrainian players and their Russian and Belarusian opponents has become a thorny issue at Wimbledon. Svitolina does not shake hands with players from those countries, but that has led to confusion. Fans booed Belarus's Victoria Azarenka for acceding to that stance and raising her racket at the end of their match on Sunday. Azarenka then said the baffled crowd was drunk.

Wimbledon said they would not be letting fans know about the handshake protocols, but the potential for a final between a Ukrainian and another Belarusian, Aryna Sabalenka, would take women's tennis far beyond its customary boundaries. It may seem incongruous to channel the horrors of war through the prism of sport, but Wimbledon will be aware that partisan support could become uniquely ugly. "Each time I play against them, it's a big motivation and big responsibility as well," Svitolina said. "It seems very close but it's very far from this." Indeed, she said she will not get ahead of herself and knows Marketa Vondrousova, of the Czech Republic,

will present a new range of challenges in tomorrow's semi-final.

Nevertheless, events in her homeland and at home, where Monfils is looking after their daughter, Skai, were at the forefront of her mind. "I was FaceTiming with her right after the match," she said. "She was really distracted with her ice cream, so I was not the priority. She is still at this age when she doesn't care if I win, if I lose."

Other children are more engaged and she hopes her success can provide momentary balm for those in the grip of war. "I'm happy I can bring a little happiness to their life," she said. "I know lots of people back in Ukraine are

watching. There were so many videos on the internet where the kids are watching on their phones. That really makes my heart melt. I'm just happy I could bring a little happiness to the people of Ukraine." If sport is fluff it is still important.

Svitolina's win was odd and dramatic. She had looked tentative early on and was fading from the first set until she won 16 out of 18 points to drag it back from the brink via four successive games. In the second she was 4-1 up in the tie-break but Swiatek, who had already saved match points on her way to the last eight, dug deep and came up with big, brave strokes to the corners.

Into the third and Svitolina had found her rhythm and was testing Swiatek's faith in her forehand. Svitolina gained the early break and never looked back. Having managed four winners in that first set, she ended up with 25. Swiatek had more winners but far more errors. A four-times grand-slam winner at only 22, she is still finding her feet on grass.

"I'm not happy for sure," Swiatek said, conceding her potent forehand was a weakness at times. "Maybe that wasn't my best performance but Elina played really well. I think she played with more freedom and more guts."

Svitolina's gratitude for support for the plight of Ukraine extended to Swiatek and the British public. In turn, Swiatek made it clear that she would like Svitolina to win the title on Saturday after previous bests of the last four here and at the US Open. "She's coming back after becoming a mother and, yeah, I'll root for her, especially because we like each other as people. I told her at the net I hope she wins this tournament."

Swiatek will surely progress beyond the quarter-final stage as she grows older and wiser. For Svitolina this may be her moment. "There's less years in front than behind me," she said. "I have to go for it. I don't have time to lose any more."



Women's singles draw

Quarter-finals

I Swiatek (Pol) 1	Semi-finals
E Svitolina (Ukr)	Svitolina
J Pegula (US) 4	Vondrousova
M Vondrousova (Cz)	

O Jabeur (Tun) 6	
E Rybakina (Kaz) 3	
M Keys (US) 25	
A Sabalenka (Bel) 2	

Svitolina, who had a son with Monfils in October, says that becoming a mother –



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Frances Tiafoe
Barclays tennis ambassador



and the war in her homeland – have helped put tennis in perspective for her

Your guide to day ten

Game of the day

The rematch of last year's women's final between Ons Jabeur and Elena Rybakina, first on Centre Court today, will take some beating. But the match that follows could come to define the future of men's tennis. The quarter-final clash between Carlos Alcaraz, below, and Holger Rune could be the first of many. Alcaraz is the first of the two to win a grand-slam and has the stronger pedigree on grass after winning Queen's last month. Rune won their most recent meeting, though Alcaraz retired hurt a set down.

Brit watch

The wheelchair singles gets underway today and there is plenty of British interest.

Alfie Hewett, the men's No 2 seed, right, is looking to complete his grand-slam set at SW19 and faces Belgium's Joachim Gérard on No 14 Court.

Gordon Reid and Andy Lapthorne will both be in action on that court earlier in the day while in the women's Lucy Shuker faces Aniek van Koot, first up on No 15 Court.

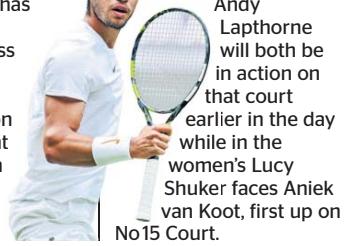
Seed in danger

Daniil Medvedev has never lost on No 1 Court, as he was keen to point out after winning his fourth-round match there. He will have his work cut out for him to keep that run going against SW19's new darling, Christopher Eubanks. The big-serving American has already beaten Cameron Norrie and Stefanos Tsitsipas and looks a man on a mission.



Today's weather

Cloudy with rain expected in the late afternoon



Pegula needs magic spark family billions can't buy

Jessica Pegula (US, 4)	4	6	4
Marketa Vondrousova (Cz)	6	2	6

Alyson Rudd

This was Jessica Pegula's sixth grand-slam quarter-final and the sixth time that the American has failed to progress. As the No 4 seed, she may reasonably have been expected to ease past Marketa Vondrousova, the world No 42, to reach the semi-finals. Once again though, that magic ingredient, the one that gives a competitor a rush of adrenaline spiked with brilliance, evaded her.

It may become one of the sport's great quests. Pegula is 29 and said she would have traded in her inheritance, which is worth far more than what any tennis stars earn, to win the Wimbledon title, but yet again the chance was snatched from her grasp. Terry and Kim Pegula, her parents, own the Buffalo Bills NFL franchise and are worth, through the natural gas and oil industries, over \$7 billion (£5.41 billion).

It would be lazy to suggest Pegula wobbles under pressure as this was a superb contest in which she battled back from a first-set loss and did nothing obviously wrong. If anything, her stoicism in the face of her Czech opponent's sudden spurts of genius was impressive. Vondrousova has a tattoo which reads "no rain no flowers" and it was prophetic in a sense as the rain came and — after the break — she blossomed.

Pegula had no such omen to call upon. In the early 1990s the Buffalo Bills reached the Super Bowl four times in a row but never won one. She is surrounded by luxury, but no grand-slam trophies. Which begs the question of what drives her. Is it possible to be hungry for victory if defeat is not overly meaningful in terms of wealth? Pegula

Vondrousova
battled through
to the semi-finals



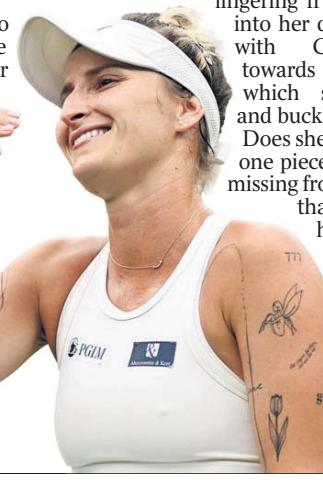
A crestfallen Pegula has now been beaten in six grand-slam quarter-finals

has her own skincare brand and launched a health food restaurant chain in 2016, which has since closed.

Tennis is littered with pushy parents and those who regard their offspring as a meal ticket. It is littered with players who feel a deep visceral desire to win for their nation, especially if that nation has been through a crisis. Tennis can be an escape from poverty or reality. It can be all the individual has. Take away the racket and there is no plan B. Pegula has a plan B whether she wants it or not.

This was the unluckiest of her quarter-final losses and she carried the lingering frustration of it into her doubles match with Coco Gauff, towards the end of which she smashed and buckled her racket. Does she agree there is one piece of the jigsaw missing from her arsenal that could help her reach a semi-final?

"I have no idea," she said. "I don't know. I was one game away today almost. I don't



really know what the answer is. I keep putting myself in good positions, but I guess it's not enough." She started to gather in all those quarter-finals appearances after hiring David Witt as coach four years ago. Before working with Pegula, Witt spent ten years coaching Venus Williams and he has pushed Pegula to reach the quarter-final stage of the Australian Open three times, the French once, the US Open once and now Wimbledon.

Ironically, Pegula had lifted her game in the final set and started to really think about shot selection. Disappointments were not met by petulant swipes with her racket that she exhibited in the first set but instead by tweaks to allow her to do better next time. The American took a 3-1 lead, pushing home her advantage with Vondrousova suddenly out of sorts as she tried to trade blows with Pegula instead of imposing her own varied game. Then the roof was closed and the suspension came at the perfect moment for the Czech, who spoke on the phone to Stepan Simek, her husband, who has stayed in Prague to look after Frankie, their cat.

"He just said, 'Try to fight. You are playing good. You are playing great match,'" Vondrousova said. "Yeah, that was it. I mean, I think the break helped actually. It was good."

Pegula, meanwhile, could be seen leaning against a wall in the corridor, headphones clamped to ears, face etched with determination. Sure enough, the American held serve for a 4-1 lead, delivering the more aggressive tennis. We all thought we were about to see Pegula reach her first slam semi-final.

Instead, we witnessed a persuasive advert for the women's game. At 4-4 and deuce they traded 31 shots in a mesmeric rally of top quality, power and intelligence. Pegula had been part of something magical but was crestfallen. She smiled, though, when asked about the remarkable progress of Elina Svitolina, who has reached the last four.

"It's amazing what she's done," Pegula said. "It's such an incredible story. Obviously, her being Ukrainian, having a baby, coming back, beating Iga [Swiatek]. There's so many dynamics."

Perhaps that is what Pegula needs to break the curse; extra dynamics.

Today's order of play

11am start unless stated

British players in blue

Centre Court (1.30pm): (6) O Jabeur (Tur) v (3) E Rybakina (Kaz); (1) C Alcaraz (Sp) v (6) H Rune (Den).

No 1 Court (1pm): (25) M Keys (US) v (2) A Sabalenka (Bel);

(3) D Medvedev (Russ) v C Eubanks (US).

No 2 Court (3) S Hunter (Aus) and E Mertens (Bel) v **N Bains (GB) and M Lumsden (GB)**; (10) K Krawietz (Ger) and T Pütz (Ger) v

(13) **J Murray (GB)** and M Venus (NZ); (6) M Bouzkova (Cz) and S Sorribes Tormo (Sp) v

L Siegemund (Ger) v Zvonareva (Russ); A Petkovic (Ger) and M Rybarikova (Slovakia) v

K Klisters (Bel) and M Hingis (Switz).

No 3 Court N Lammons (US) and J Thrower (US) v (15) M Granollers (Sp) and H Zeballos (Arg);

(1) W Koolhof (Neth) and **N Skupski (GB)** v A Behar (Uruguay) and A Pavlasek (Cz); (7) M Pavic (Cro) and L Kichenok (Ukr) v **J O'Mara (GB)** and **O Nicholls (GB)**; B Bryan (US) and M Bryan (US) v A Sá (Br) and B Soares (Br).

No 4 Court H Searle (GB) v A Gea (Fr); N Bartunkova (Cz) v **M Xu (GB)**; (13) E Jones (Aus) v **M Stojanović (GB)**; winner of Kovackova (Cz) and

L Samonova (Cz) v M El Allami (Mor) And A El Aouni (Mor) — v (9) **R Stoiber (GB)** and **M Xu (GB)**; **H Klugman (GB)** and **I Lucy (GB)** v (7) N Bartunkova (Cz) and N Vargova (Slovakia).

No 5 Court L Sciahbasi (It) v (9) D Blanch (US); (7) S Ishii (Japan) v

H Klugman (GB); (11) R Sakamoto (Japan) v (8) J Fonseca (Br);

P Brunlik (Cz) and C Woestendick (US) v (6) B Djuric (Serbia) and A Gea (Fr); T Evans (US) and A Hamilton (US) v (6) W Sonobe (Japan) and T Valentova (Cz).

No 6 Court K Bigun (US) v (3) Zhou Yi (China); T Preston (Aus) v (8) E Koike (Japan); (4) C Williams (US) v (16) A Melero Kretzer (Sp);

F Blaydes (GB) and **B Gusic Wan (GB)** v (7) D Blanch (US) and R Horovitz (US); (3) A Melero Kretzer (Sp) and R Pacheco

Méndez (Mex) v F Cavallo (Arg) and I Parcsa (Ven).

No 7 Court (5) Y Demin v A Ghibaudo (Fr); (15) T Berkia (Pol) v (2) R Pacheco Méndez (Mex); N Budkov Kjaer (Nor) v (6) I Radulov (Bul); (8) T Berkia (Pol) and **H Searle (GB)** v K Bigun (US) and Zhou Yi (China);

(5) N Budkov Kjaer (Nor) and S Eriksson (Swe) v (2) J Fonseca (Br) and J Prado Angelo (Bol).

No 8 Court (5) R Jamrichova (Slovakia) v R Munk Mortensen (Den); (1) A Korneeva v G Greco

Luchina (It); (8) **E McDonald (GB)** and L Moyano (Arg) v winner of **I Haddad (GB)** and **H Read (GB)** v C Esquiva Banuls (Sp) and M Genis Salas (Sp); winner of Z Pawlikowska (Pol) and L Taylor (Aus) v D Suivrdjonskova (Serbia) and V Valdmannova (Cze) — v (2) R Jamrichova (Slovakia) and F Urgesi (It); (5) H Kinoshita (Japan) and Saito (Japan) v **H Oluwadare (GB)** and **M Stojanović (GB)**.

No 10 Court Z Pawlikowska (Pol) and L Taylor (Aus) v D Suivrdjonskova (Serbia) and V Valdmannova (Cze); (1) L Perez Alarcon (Per) and K Quevedo (US) v R Gilheany (Aus) and **D Piani (GB)**; P Barbier Gaze (Fr) and V Radjenovic (Serbia) v J Filip (Cz) and G Vulpitta (It); winner of L Perez Alarcon (Per) and K Quevedo (US) v R Gilheany (Aus) and **D Piani (GB)** — v A Harmon (US) and V Ray (US); (1) Y Demin and C Williams (US) v C Cianciotto (It) and F Romano (It).

No 11 Court I Haddad (GB) and H Read (GB) v C Esquiva Banuls (Sp) and M Genis Salas (Sp); A Kovackova (Cz) and L Samonova (Cz) v M El Allami (Mor) and A El Aouni (Mor); I Ivanova (Bul) and M Rowinska (Pol) v **E Blackford (GB)** and **G Roach (GB)**.

No 12 Court F Pace (It) v R Stoiber (GB); J Delgado (GB) and J Murray (GB) v M Baghdatis (Cyp) and

X Malisse (Bel); T Griekspoor (Neth) and B Stevens (Neth) v R Bopanna (India) and M Ebden (Aus); **J Konta (GB)** and S Mirza (India) v F Schiavone (It) and R Vinci (It).

No 14 Court (1) D Groot (Neth) v K Montjane (SA); (1) N Vink (Neth) v **A Lapthorne (GB)**; G Fernández (Arg) v G Reid (GB); J Gerard (Bel) v (2) A Hewitt (GB).

No 15 Court A Van Koot (Neth) v **L Shuker (GB)**; M Ohtani (Japan) v (2) Y Kamiji (Japan); **G Slade (GB)** v H Davidson (Aus); M De La Puente (Sp) v R Spaargaren (Neth).

No 17 Court J Griffioen (Neth) v Zhu Zhenzhen (China); D Wagner (US) v D Ramphadi (SA); R Shaw (Can) v (2) S Schroder (Neth); (1) T Oda (Japan) v T Miki (Japan).

No 18 Court (11.30am): M Woodforde (Aus) and M Navratilova (Us) v T Johansson (Swe) and B Schett (Austria); M Middelkoop (Neth) and A Sutjiadi (Indonesia) v J Vliegen (Bel) and Xu Yifan (China); R Dencheva (Bul) v (2) C Ngounoue (US); **V Frydrych (GB)** and **P Weir (GB)** v F Bondolfi (It) and F Cina (It).

To be arranged (3) S Ishii (Japan) and E Koike (Japan) v winner of I Ivanova (Bul) and M Rowinska (Pol) v **E Blackford (GB)** and **G Roach (GB)**; G Rusedski (GB) and C Martinez (Sp) v T Engqvist (Swe) and **A Keothavong (GB)**.

Sport Wimbledon

Invincible Djokovic extends

Stuart Fraser

Tennis
Correspondent

Andrey Rublev (Russ, 7)	6	1	4	3
Novak Djokovic (Serb, 2)	4	6	6	6

For a man who was a set down in a grand-slam quarter-final, Novak Djokovic looked remarkably unperturbed. A master of navigating the extended best-of-five-set format with ease, it was as though the Serbian great suddenly turned on a switch to win the next three sets against Andrey Rublev to secure a place in the Wimbledon semi-finals.

A 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 victory in two hours and 48 minutes helped Djokovic extend his unbeaten streak at the All England Club to 33 wins. The 36-year-old has also not been far off near dominance at every grand-slam tournament he has played since the start of 2021, losing only two of 58 matches.

"I know my opponents want to get a scalp, they want to get a win," Djokovic said. "But it ain't happening, still."

Rublev, seeded No 7, gave it his best shot but one set was all the Russian had to show for his efforts. The 25-year-old has consistently been one of the top-ten players on the ATP Tour in recent years but he is struggling to overcome something of a hoodoo at the sport's biggest tournaments as the first male player in the open era to lose his first eight grand-slam quarter-finals.

How envious Rublev must be of the man he was standing across the net from. By reaching the last four here, Djokovic has equalled a Roger Federer record by reaching a 46th grand-slam men's singles semi-final. If he continues his present level of play, it will be far from his last.

"They're just numbers at the end of the day," Djokovic modestly said. "Especially during the tournament I don't like to spend too much time thinking about statistics. It's a tournament that is active for me and I'm still in it."

"That is all I'm thinking about right now. All I'm thinking about is directing my attention to my next match. It's only going to get tougher, I know that, but I like the way I played today, the energy on the court also, so hopefully I can have another win in a few days' time."

Playing for a third consecutive day after his fourth-round match was spread over two days, Djokovic uncharacteristically looked a little flat in the early stages. His first-serve in



Djokovic has not lost on Centre Court since the final against Murray back in 2013

He's in the last four again

Most men's grand-slam semi-finals

瑞士 R Federer	46
塞尔维亚 N Djokovic	46
西班牙 R Nadal	38
美国 J Connors	31
奥地利 I Lendl	28
美国 A Agassi	26
美国 P Sampras	23
英国 A Murray	21
美国 J McEnroe	19
瑞典 S Edberg	19

Men's singles draw

Quarter-finals

C Alcaraz (Sp) 1	Semi-finals
H Rune (Den) 6	
D Medvedev (Rus) 3	
C Ebanks (US)	
J Sinner (It) 8	Sinner
R Safiullin (Rus)	Djokovic
A Rublev (Rus) 7	
N Djokovic (Ser) 2	

percentage was low at 50 per cent — normally it would be about 65 to 70 per cent — and Rublev took advantage with a break for 5-4.

Using his powerful forehand to great effect, Rublev served out the set, though his momentum was quelled when Djokovic hit back by winning an 18-shot rally to break for 2-0 in the second set. The Serb looked far more comfortable after this and quickly levelled the match at one set all.

One break of serve in the third set

was enough for Djokovic to see it out, although the last game proved tricky. It took almost 15 minutes for him to convert a fourth set point after saving three break points. A couple of minor heckles from the stands prompted a fired-up Djokovic to cup his ears towards the culprits in response. Victory from here was inevitable.

"There were some thrilling rallies," Djokovic said. "Andrey is a guy I respect a lot. He brings a lot of intensity on the court. You can see by the way he is grunting after his shots, especially on the forehand."

"It's kind of scary, both the ball that is coming from the corner and the sound as well. Obviously he is someone that has been around the top ten for quite a few years and I wish him the best of luck. I congratulate him for a great match today and a great tournament."

Djokovic has two days off before returning on Friday to play Jannik Sinner, the No 8 seed from Italy, in the semi-finals. Another streak at stake is his run of 44 consecutive wins on Centre Court since losing the 2013 final to Andy Murray.

"I think any tennis player wants to be in a position where everyone wants to win against you on the court," Djokovic said. "It is a privilege, as Billie Jean King said.

"Pressure is a part of what we do. It's a part of our sport. It's never going to go away regardless of how many grand slams you win, or how many matches you've won or how many years you've played professionally on the tour."

"The pressure is paramount every single time I come out on court, particularly here on Centre Court at Wimbledon but at the same time, it awakens the most beautiful emotions in me and it motivates me beyond what I've ever dreamt of actually and inspires me to play my best tennis."



Djokovic lost the first set against Rublev, of Russia, before surging back to win in

Sinner, and Carota Boys fan club, ready to re-enter House of Novak

Jannik Sinner (Ita, 8)	6	3	6	6
Roman Safiullin (Russ)	4	6	2	2

James Gheerbrant

Can anyone enter the House of Nole and leave with anything other than grass stains, regrets and Novak Djokovic's infuriatingly magnanimous comiserations ringing in their ears?

It's ten years since Andy Murray inflicted Djokovic's most recent defeat on Centre Court, and beating him there is starting to look like the tennis equivalent of the sword in the stone: a challenge endowed with such mythic impossibility that to accomplish it would reveal the conqueror as the new king of the realm.

Few aspirants have come closer than Jannik Sinner, the genial and gangly Italian who won the first two sets against Djokovic in last year's quarter-finals before the Serb's big-match autopilot kicked in. Now Sinner will get another crack.

"It's going to be a completely different match," Sinner said. "He knows me better as I know him better also. It's going to be a bit tactical. In the other way, it is also a little bit mental, no, if you play against Novak? I will fight for every ball. I will enjoy the moment, but knowing that I can go hard, trying to beat him."

Sinner, a former junior ski racer from the Italian Tyrol, hired the highly respected coach Darren Cahill in July last year and has had his best year on Tour

to date, reaching the semi-finals at each of the first three Masters 1000 tournaments of the season: Indian Wells, Miami (where he made the final) and Monte Carlo. The loss to Djokovic last year was the 13th and last in a sequence of defeats against top-five players. Since then, he has won four out of nine, and three of his past five. Not without justification, he believes he is a better player than the ingénue who stepped on to Centre Court 12 months ago.

"Physically I have improved," he said. "I'm much stronger. I can stay on court for many hours without suffering. I think also tennis-wise I feel better. If I have to play the slice, I can play it now without thinking; I can go to the net knowing that I have good volleys. I have some good things now in my game."

Considered one of the brightest talents of the new generation, the world No 8 had yet to reach a grand slam semi-final, having lost each of the four quarter-finals he had played before. But he was a strong favourite against the Russian Roman Safiullin, the world No 92, and imposed his superiority.

Sinner seemed to be in control of the match when, after having taken the first set 6-4, he secured an early break in the second. Then the contest took an unexpected twist. The underdog suddenly reeled off four games in a row, with the crucial second break coming when Sinner stopped the rally to incorrectly challenge a ball which had landed flush on the baseline.

Sinner was not about to self-destruct though. The clean power of his fore-

hand, rifled low over the net with a resounding boom, the racket whipping around in a ferocious swat, was the decisive force in the match and gradually it became more and more irresistible. Safiullin faced break points in each of his first three service games of the third set, and though he staved them off in the first two, the heaviness of the Sinner forehand eventually pummelled him into a backhand error.

From there, Sinner raced away with it. Now he faces the ultimate test. With his mop of red hair, he will be well supported against Djokovic by his hardcore fan club, the Carota Boys, in their distinctive orange attire. They will be behind him, and he will also have one heck of a carrot dangling in front of him.

his Centre Court supremacy



four sets and claim his 44th consecutive victory on Wimbledon's main court

Petulance lands 16-year-old Andreeva with £6,000 fine

Mirra Andreeva has been handed the biggest fine of the championships so far. The 16-year-old Russian has been docked £6,190 of her £207,000 cheque for two charges of unsportsmanlike conduct.

During her fourth-round defeat by Madison Keys, of the United States, on Monday, Andreeva twice threw her racket to the floor.

The first offence at the end of the second-set tie-break earned her a warning from the umpire, Louise Azemar Engzell, who then handed her a point penalty that brought up match point when it happened again in the third. This despite Andreeva insisting

that she had accidentally dropped her racket after slipping on the turf. The match point was saved, but Keys went on to win in three sets. At the end of the match Andreeva did not shake hands with Engzell and scurried off court.

Last month, Andreeva narrowly avoided disqualification from the French Open — her grand-slam debut — when she fired a ball into the stands during her third-round match against Coco Gauff.

She received a code violation for smashing the ball away after failing to take two set points before winning the opening set. Gauff fought back, though, to win the match.

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND

Time as a pundit and Clijsters' pep talks shaped unlikely star

Christopher Eubanks was preparing for a life off the court but is now in SW19 quarter-finals, writes **Stuart Fraser**

On the roof of the All England Club's broadcast centre at midday on Tuesday came an indication of the new-found celebrity status of Christopher Eubanks. About 20 hours after becoming a Wimbledon quarter-finalist, the 27-year-old was sitting at a table being interviewed live for the United States' most-watched breakfast television programme, *Good Morning America*.

The buzz surrounding Eubanks here is inescapable. With a game style that produces winners for fun and a personality that is full of charisma, his Wimbledon debut has captured the imagination of the many spectators who are seeing him here for the first time. By all accounts, the television audience across the pond is also captivated.

"He has become a superstar back home," James Blake, the former world No 4 from the United States who has acted as a mentor for Eubanks in recent years, said. "It is great to see because he deserves it. He is the most genuine guy."

"I have always thought that being yourself on the court really endears you to fans, whether that's Pete Sampras who was very inwards and very focused or Marat Safin who was breaking rackets. I think it shines through to the fans where Chris is having fun out there. They want to have fun because he's playing a match and they're there to be entertained."

"Don't get me wrong, he's got the work ethic. He's doing everything he can but he's also having a good time while he's doing it. I think fans really appreciate that."

It has taken some time for the Eubanks show to be introduced to the world. After growing up in Atlanta — his father Mark is a baptist minister — he was on the tour early as a 15-year-old but only as a practice partner for the former top-40 player Donald Young. Three years of competition and education on the American college circuit for Georgia Tech then followed before he turned professional at the age of 21 in 2017.

A solid player on the second-tier ATP Challenger tour for several years, Eubanks struggled to make the next step into the world's top 100. Early last year he became so frustrated with his tennis that he decided to pursue other productive avenues in which to spend his time in between tournaments. An opportunity to work as a pundit for the Tennis Channel on American television came up.



Eubanks' improved performances on court have coincided with the time he has spent working for TV channels, left



"We have had other players pop in when they have been injured," Jon Wertheim, the respected American tennis journalist and broadcaster who worked alongside Eubanks, said. "This was really quite different. He was outside the top 100 and approached this as a job, as a future career, not a fun side gig. He prepared, read through the notes and sought advice and ways to improve."

Eubanks's thoughtful analysis received such rave reviews that he has been invited back since on several occasions. Three months ago he missed out on entry to the Monte Carlo Masters, the traditional curtain-raiser to the European clay-court swing, so he spent a week in the Tennis Channel studio instead.

"The commentary really helps my perception on the court," Eubanks said. "I can take a bit of the emotion out and say like, 'Hey, if I were watching this match and calling it, what would I be telling myself, and stop getting so emotionally charged when things don't go my way.' There are certain times where I might make errors and make mistakes, but if I'm in the booth, I can say that's a good error and that's OK, that's going to pay off in the long run."

A big breakthrough eventually came in March when Eubanks reached the quarter-finals of the Miami Open. By winning his third-round match against Croatia's Borna Coric, then ranked No 20, he guaranteed a place in the world's top 100 for the first time. He was so overwhelmed afterwards that he broke down in tears.

"When he broke into the top 100, I think it was a huge pressure release," Blake said. "The other thing he's talked about is that he's done every little thing that little bit better, whether it's the recovery or the nutrition. I was on him for the past five or six years saying he needed to beef up a little bit. Even though it may not look like it, he was even skinnier when he started on tour."

Eubanks's sudden improvement on grass has come as a surprise. After

Standing out

Of the eight men in the last eight, Eubanks tops several categories

Most aces	C Eubanks	85
A Rublev	53	
First serve (%)	C Eubanks	70
D Medvedev	69	
Most return winners	C Eubanks	21
H Rune	14	
Most winners	C Eubanks	247
R Safiullin	219	
Most unforced errors	C Eubanks	163
R Safiullin	162	
Serve and volley (%)	C Eubanks	17
R Safiullin	10	Note: All statistics for first four rounds of men's singles

previously stating that he "hated" the surface, a conversation with the former world No 1 Kim Clijsters helped to change his attitude towards lawn tennis. In the week leading up to Wimbledon he won his first ATP tour title at the Mallorca Championships.

"We played World Team Tennis [an exhibition event in the US] together last year and had a good connection," Clijsters said. "We would talk for hours at times after some of our matches and he was just really picking my brain. He was very, very open with his frustration on the grass courts."

Eubanks is following in the footsteps of inspirational figure Arthur Ashe — Eubanks was a double for Ashe in the 2021 documentary *Citizen Ashe* — by joining him and MaliVai Washington as the only three black American men to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals in the open era (1968 onwards). Whatever the result of his match against the No 3 seed Daniil Medvedev today, he is assured of a billing alongside the top players at next month's US Open.

"I hope he enjoys being a superstar because I think that is what he is in the making of," Blake said.

Sport

Golf boss: We had to cave in to Saudi cash

Plan to offer McIlroy his own team on rebel tour

Tom Kershaw

The PGA Tour told a US Senate committee that LIV Golf's Saudi backers could "gut us in five years" if it had not negotiated a peace deal with the country's sovereign wealth fund.

The shock framework agreement for a merger between the PGA Tour, the DP World Tour, and the Public Investment Fund, which finances LIV, was announced after a dramatic U-turn last month. After being called to testify at Capitol Hill, two of the PGA Tour's most senior executives admitted they were helpless in their fight against the PIF and accused LIV Golf's management of "attempting to destroy golf".

Documents released as part of the Senate's investigation laid bare the acrimony towards Greg Norman, who PGA Tour executives attempted to oust as LIV Golf's chief executive as part of the framework agreement, along with a series of extraordinary proposals floated by the PIF as part of the potential treaty, including:

- offering Rory McIlroy and Tiger Woods their own teams in the breakaway league; and
- making Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the PIF governor and Newcastle chairman, a member of the Augusta National and the R&A.

Jimmy Dunne, a PGA Tour board member who brokered the deal, told the Senate committee: "My fear is if we don't get to an agreement, they're all putting in billions to golf, they've got a management team that wants to

destroy golf, and they have an unlimited amount of money. I'm more concerned they'll end up owning golf if we don't do it." Dunne, who testified alongside Ron Price, the PGA Tour's chief operating officer, said the organisation is currently in negotiations that would result in the PGA Tour receiving an investment "north of \$1 billion" (£770 million) if the agreement is completed, but that it is currently "just a mutual agreement to continue to negotiate", with several issues yet to be resolved if the golfing landscape is to be reunited under one umbrella.

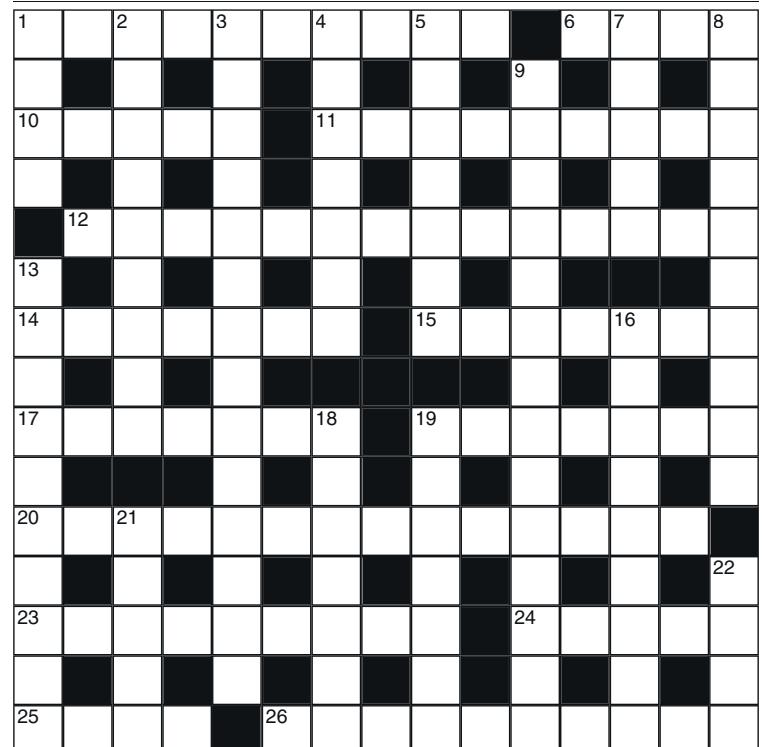
An extraordinary 276-page trove of documents released by the Senate detailed how the initial agreement between two sides, who had been locked in bitter legal disputes, came together, along with a meeting that took place between McIlroy and Al-Rumayyan in Dubai in November last year.

Other ideas floated during negotiations prior to the framework included a "World Golf Series" team event that would comprise LIV, PGA and DP World Tour players and conclude in Saudi Arabia and that two PGA Tour events be sponsored by the PIF or the Saudi oil company Aramco, one of which would take place in Saudi Arabia.

The framework agreement has been heavily scrutinised by members of the US Senate, who castigated the PGA Tour for aligning itself with Saudi Arabia, citing the country's human rights record, the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, and "other terrorist

Continued on page 59

Times Crossword 28,653



David Walsh

Stage winner dedicates victory to memory of his team-mate

Tour de France, page 54

Martin Samuel

Bayern should make a serious bid for Kane or leave him alone

Page 58



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND



Mum's the word for Svitolina

Nine months after the birth of her son, Elina Svitolina is in the Wimbledon women's singles semi-finals after beating No 1 seed Iga Swiatek, pages 60-61

ACROSS

- 1 Foaming at the mouth while nursing broken toe, perhaps? (7,3)
- 6 Fish that's fat dropping by (4)
- 10 Drink containing old grape (5)
- 11 Human organ left in cup of tea? (9)
- 12 I ask more quizzically about bouillon that's overwhelmed a fish dish (8,6)
- 14 Cleanliness elevated boy or girl, reportedly? (7)
- 15 I stop after short time — somewhere to get a little drink? (7)
- 17 Titanic battle, shower wiped from terrain (7)
- 19 Bread cut after vehicle leaves (7)
- 20 Under the circumstances, the Best Picture (2,4,2,4)
- 23 Wine in cooler shown to the left alongside last of Shiraz (9)
- 24 Sound of sucker in drain (5)
- 25 Back in bureau, a seriously hairy man (4)
- 26 Filth originally inside an incisor unfortunately too deep to pick up? (10)

DOWN

- 1 Composer stripped for Native American tribe (4)
- 2 Legendary king with weapon beating sword, battle-axe (9)
- 3 Meeting client, senorita excited (14)
- 4 Potential killer, European breaking measure of work up (7)
- 5 A heartless old F1 driver, father of many (7)
- 7 Pledge to collect one, finding lift quickly (5)
- 8 Generous offer shipping the gear abroad (10)
- 9 It's hard to imagine those people getting singled out on tour of Slough (3,4,7)
- 13 Animal with endless German ordnance: agree to confiscate that (10)
- 16 Ocean after the tracks initially in mind — on this? (4,5)
- 18 Wife invested in African currency, an African (7)
- 19 Horror story German playwright hasn't begun (7)
- 21 Will written finally with name in Indian state (5)
- 22 In church, vice out of bounds (4)

Yesterday's solution 28,652



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REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

03 DOES THE UK NEED A
HOMEGROWN GDPR?

08 TIGHT BUDGETS PILE
ON THE PRESSURE

10 THE HIDDEN DANGERS
OF WHATSAPP MISUSE



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DATA PRIVACY

Is it time for GDPR 2.0?

Five years on from the arrival of GDPR, the UK is weighing up post-Brexit divergence as a chance to refresh the data protection rules. What might that mean for compliance?

Jack Apollo George

The information superhighway slows for no one. Data and capital have crossed borders with greater ease than people for decades. But try to move the personal data of Europeans outside the EU and you'll be in serious trouble.

As the gold standard for data privacy, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) undoubtedly has teeth. For instance, in May, Meta's EU base in Ireland was fined €1.2bn by the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) for breaching the flagship data protection law. Andrea Jelinek, the chair of the EDPB, alleged that Meta had engaged in "systematic, repetitive and continuous" transfers of personal user data from the EU to the US. To date, it's the biggest fine levied under GDPR.

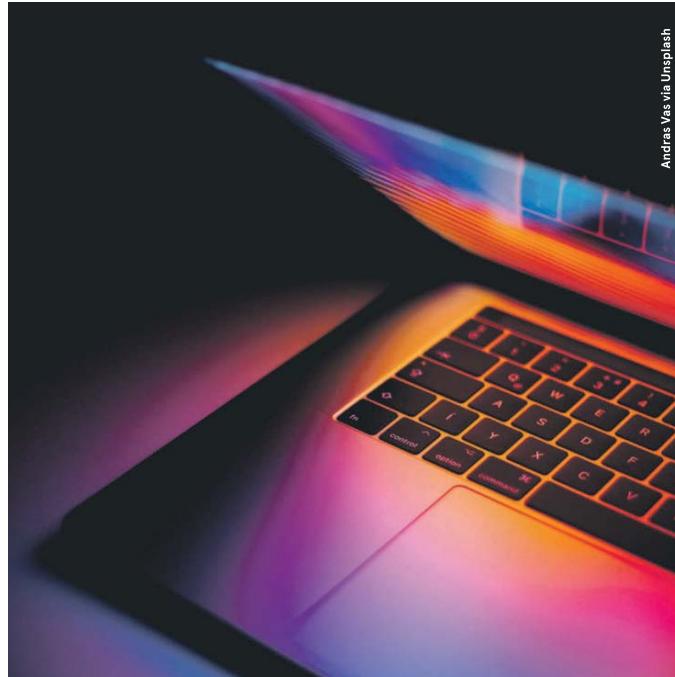
The UK adopted GDPR in 2018. In the five years since then, British businesses have become fully aligned with those on the Continent regarding data regulation. You'll have noticed the pop-ups asking you to accept cookies or to opt in to a company's data privacy policy when you visit their website. That's GDPR in action: nominally putting your data in your hands, and giving you the choice to share it online if you so please.

That said, the mechanism is clunky. Plenty of sites don't have a 'no' button immediately available, which makes it easier to click 'yes' without fully being aware of the consequences. And the demands on the compliance side are far from negligible, especially when dealing with large amounts of personally identifiable data.

Various other issues have also arisen, with complaints ranging from the fact that GDPR takes a 'one-size-fits-all' approach – its provisions not being tailored to different sizes of business, sectors or data use cases – to broader concerns that it overburdens those businesses designated as data controllers.

In the past few years, then, there have been murmurs of the UK taking advantage of Brexit to create its own, distinct data protection regulation. The goal: to cut red tape and empower British businesses via a new and improved policy. The fear: deviating from a global gold standard, diluting personal protections and hurting consumer confidence.

Proposals for a new, UK-wide data protection bill are working their way through parliament. The secretary of state for science, technology and innovation, Michelle Donelan, introduced the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill in March. The announcement promised a "common-sense-led" law that would



Andras Vas via Unsplash

reduce the "costs and burdens" to British businesses.

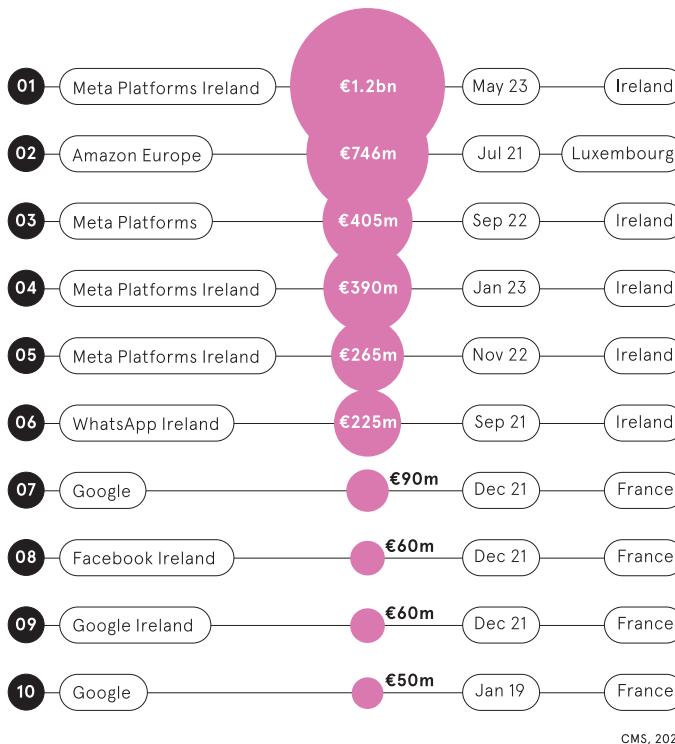
According to a government spokesperson, modernisation is the prime focus of this bill. "Our new Data Protection Bill seizes a post-Brexit opportunity to bring our data rules into the current decade, delivering £4.7bn for the UK as a result," they say. "The new regime will reduce burdens on businesses, boost the economy and unlock innovation across the UK, all while building on our already high standards for the protection of personal data."

One of the key challenges in refreshing GDPR, however, will be achieving so-called EU data adequacy, which allows EU data to flow freely to a third-party country. This would ensure there are no trade fallouts with European partners, which could otherwise prove incredibly costly to British businesses. As evidenced by high-profile GDPR-related fines, the US does not have EU data adequacy.

But legal analysis of the government's new bill has found several areas of potential divergence from

THE US TECH GIANTS ALREADY HAVE A GDPR COMPLIANCE PROBLEM

The biggest GDPR fines issued to date



CMS, 2023

GDPR, including the possibility of commercial enterprises being exempted from some data protection requirements if the data is being used for purposes that could "reasonably be described as scientific". That would indicate an attempt, albeit a risky one, to empower businesses and researchers by avoiding one-size-fits-all red tape.

But on the other side of the Channel, some are asking if GDPR needs to get stricter, not more flexible.

"Europe should double down on its flagship data protection law," comments Townsend Feehan, CEO of IAB Europe, an association representing digital advertisers and marketers across the continent. "GDPR empowers people in a way no other privacy law does. However, five years on, we are at risk of having choices taken out of people's hands and placed into powerful aggregators such as web browsers and operating system manufacturers."

Even among businesses required to comply with GDPR, there seems little appetite for any loosening of the rules or lifting of the compliance burden. That's because giving consumers control, via pop-ups and clear privacy policies, can be a positive thing, and because complying with GDPR has improved businesses' data practices generally.

Alex Laurie is senior vice-president of global sales engineering at identity verification software provider ForgeRock. He acknowledges that while the implementation of GDPR hasn't always been straightforward, "what it has unequivocally achieved is a new level of trust among consumers".

"What we'd expect to see next," he comments, "is even more control being given back to consumers, who should get to decide which information is shared with what providers, instead of mass-sharing all of their personal data."

Scott McKinnon, field CISO for EMEA at US cloud company VMware, suggests that the focus for future regulation should be on encouraging a more holistic "privacy by design" approach. This means "not only evaluating a company's adherence to the law, but also its effectiveness in safeguarding individuals' privacy".

"By adopting this approach," he explains, "businesses will be incentivised to prioritise privacy protection, rather than solely focusing on meeting regulatory requirements."

Whether the UK government's new bill achieves the right balance of enshrining personal data protections while also alleviating burdens for businesses remains to be seen. Either way, after five years of GDPR, the UK is undoubtedly moving into a new era of data protection.

SUSTAINABILITY

The power of green purse strings

Armed with some significant incentives, trade finance providers are well-positioned to help businesses achieve good ESG standards in their supply chains. But can they really police this model themselves, without the guiding hand of a regulator?

Ouida Taaffe

Blissful ignorance is no longer an option. From January 2026, large corporates with operations in Europe will need to have full oversight of the environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards in their supply chains, under the terms of the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). And from January 2027, the rules tighten up even further, to include smaller firms.

Given that large companies often have tens of thousands of suppliers around the world – and many tiers of suppliers – that won't be easy. But help may be at hand.

Big corporates use trade banks to provide supply chain finance (SCF). That's to say, they ask their bank to extend credit to a supplier on better terms than the small firm could command on its own. It's a form of receivables finance, and can be used to encourage certain behaviours.

Walmart, for example, works with HSBC to source cheaper finance for suppliers that have better sustain-

bility ratings as part of its global Sustainable Supply Chain Finance programme. The smaller firms benefit from pricing that is linked to Walmart's credit rating.

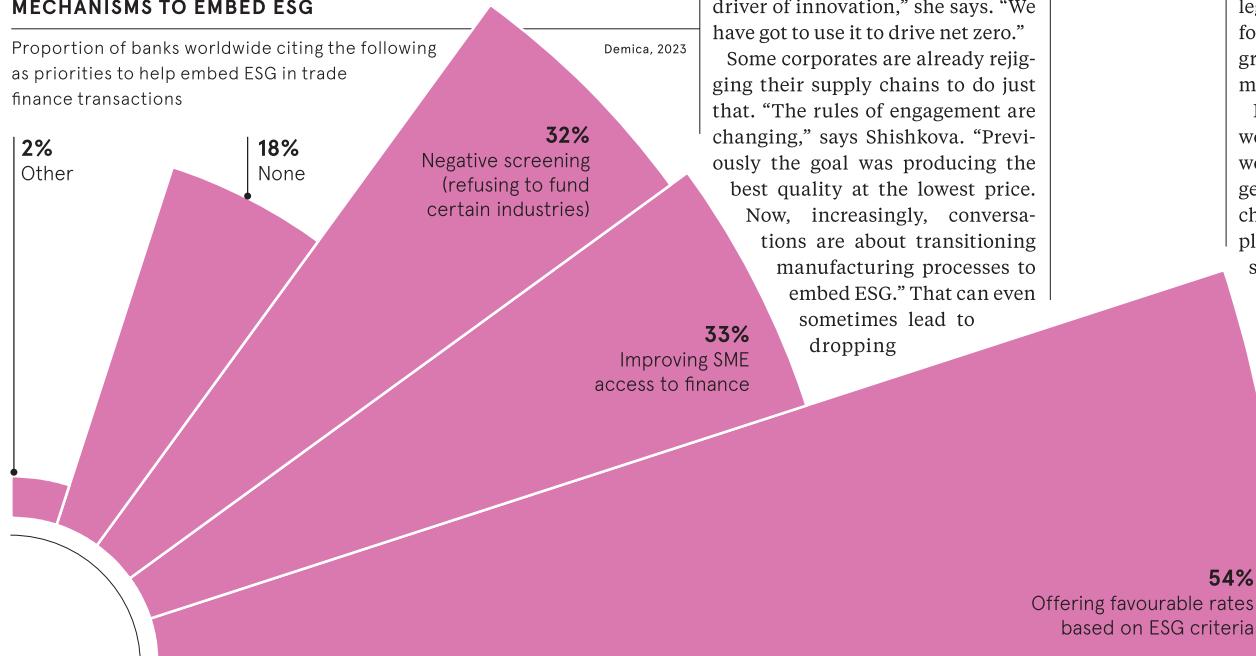
The idea now is that SCF could be used as a carrot to encourage better flows of data around ESG compliance and higher ESG standards.

This already seems to be a growing trend. "The number of conversations we are having with clients on embedding sustainability into their supply chains has increased significantly over the last 12 months," says Vasilka Shishkova, solutions structuring director for global trade and receivables finance at HSBC. She explains that the demand is largely down to the new disclosure and reporting requirements.

The CSRD does not mandate any specific penalties for non-compliance, but the expectation is that no one will want to be the skunk at the ESG picnic. That would mean higher costs of finance and reputational problems.

TRADE FINANCE PROVIDERS ARE USING SEVERAL DIFFERENT MECHANISMS TO EMBED ESG

Proportion of banks worldwide citing the following as priorities to help embed ESG in trade finance transactions



Daniel Balabakov via iStock

The current guidelines may also be just the start. Research by HSBC and the Boston Consulting Group in 2021 showed that global supply chains account for up to 80% of the world's total carbon emissions. Unless supply chains adapt to become greener, more socially responsible and reflective of good governance practices, the planet has a serious problem.

So, could a combination of reporting guidelines like the CSRD and incentivised 'self-regulation' via SCF be the solution? Or does there always need to be a regulator making companies toe the line?

It's a question made all the more important by a rising awareness of the various issues in global supply chains, from hidden child labour to the destruction of rainforests and toxic oil spills. But as Angela Francis, director of policy solutions at WWF-UK, explains, supply chains can undoubtedly be a force for good. "Trade is an enormous driver of innovation," she says. "We have got to use it to drive net zero."

Some corporates are already re-jigging their supply chains to do just that. "The rules of engagement are changing," says Shishkova. "Previously the goal was producing the best quality at the lowest price.

Now, increasingly, conversations are about transitioning manufacturing processes to embed ESG." That can even sometimes lead to dropping

suppliers which can't meet ESG standards or reporting requirements, she adds.

Of course, that kind of decision won't always be an easy call. "One problem is that smaller companies – both buyers and sellers – don't necessarily have the required data, especially when you get down to the deep tiers," observes Rebecca Harding, an international trade consultant who created the world's first automated sustainability scoring system for trade finance.

Still, based on the sums involved alone, the idea of using SCF to drive good ESG standards does look convincing. According to HSBC's research, up to half of the \$100tn (£79tn) investment needed to achieve net zero by 2050 has to be directed towards SMEs. SCF could be a useful conduit for that.

Then there's the global reach that trade finance offers. Shishkova argues that SCF could ultimately achieve a far greater impact than legislation or other conventional forms of ESG regulation, on the grounds that supply chains connect millions of companies worldwide.

But hitting the mark remains a work in progress. "Most banks would say that if you can get targeted money to businesses in supply chains, that can help both the supply chain and the bank to be more sustainable," says Harding. "The problem is that it's hard to know what, say, 'green' really means."

There are other practical issues too, Harding adds. "Supply chain finance tends to move quite quickly – within 30 days. Getting the right data, at the right time, can be both expensive and unwieldy."

A further challenge – for SCF providers and regulators alike – is that dealing with ESG is a moving target. What needs to be done will change as the climate

transition proceeds and the planet warms. What's more, many problems, such as the loss of biodiversity, are so-called 'externalities' that are not yet priced into business models.

"Regulators want to know about the ESG-related risk exposures of banks because regulators are tasked with overseeing financial stability. But this looks backward and not forward to the ESG transition that needs to take place," says Harding. That could, she says, lead to more 'green-hushing', where firms focus on toeing the current regulatory line and keep quiet about what's needed for the future.

Harding suggests that SCF providers and their clients should approach regulators to discuss what rules, standards and data would help the banks to effectively incentivise more sustainable supply chains. "So, for example, the regulations could be changed to allow different capital ratios [at banks] for more sustainable assets," she suggests.

After all, the banks are just part of a much bigger – and highly politicised – space, Harding explains. "Trade is being weaponised and the sustainability agenda is being weaponised. The banks are the foot soldiers in this space and they are being told to go over the top. They're damned if they do and damned if they don't."

Fundamentally, in Harding's view, the need for good ESG standards in supply chains means that banks are being asked to shift from a value-based model to one that prioritises values. But a banking and funding model not built on market prices is a radical departure.

"A new values-based economic system requires a public discussion," Harding says. "For example, should the rich north try to impose its values on the global south?" That's hardly, of course, the sort of question a bank can be expected to answer alone. ■

INSIGHT

'Compliance is assuming an ever more strategic role'

The rise of ESG is a chance for compliance teams to step up and help companies do the right business in the right way, says the International Compliance Association's Pekka Dare

In today's dynamic business environment, the remit of compliance practitioners is constantly evolving. Current priorities include ESG and supply chain risk; rapid technological change; financial crime and other threats to consumer protection from the cost-of-living crisis; the growing scope and complexity of sanctions regimes; and more besides.

And in the face of such change, compliance is assuming an ever more strategic role, helping organisations navigate this landscape, and ultimately enabling good business.

The rise of ESG is a prime example of this. Compliance practitioners can make an essential contribution towards meeting ESG obligations, by helping organisations identify their ESG risk appetite and exposure, and by influencing ESG strategy. This includes understanding emerging global ESG standards, reporting frameworks and regulations, and then designing and implementing policies, procedures and controls to adhere to them.

Climate risk and reporting is one area receiving considerable attention. For instance, in the UK, regulators' expectations are ramping up, with the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) requiring business leaders to articulate how climate considerations are integrated into their organisations' strategies, governance structures and risk management processes. Meanwhile, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has urged firms to develop clear net-zero transition plans, despite final rules still being in development.

To date, the limited availability and poor quality of data has hindered climate risk assessments, reporting and planning. While many organisations have some grasp of their scope one and scope two emissions (those directly or indirectly associated with day-to-day operations), measuring scope three emissions (those embedded in the value chain) is proving more challenging, particularly for businesses with complex global footprints.

With that in mind, the PRA expects firms to have a "counterparty engagement strategy". This should help them understand how their counterparties plan to manage climate risk exposures, and will then inform their decisions on which customers to accept and which sectors to operate in.

As well as requiring improved transparency around ESG in businesses' supply chains, regulators are also paying closer attention to the products and services that firms offer. Terms such as "green" or "sustainable" have historically been poorly defined. Now though, as a consensus emerges around appropriate metrics for assessing the environmental and social impact of products and services, organisations increasingly run the risk of greenwashing. Compliance teams will play a major role in ensuring that businesses walk the walk here.

Finally, organisations must also embed ESG objectives within their broader values, goals and culture to avoid the shortcomings of a tick-box approach. For compliance, similar work took place following the 2008 financial crisis, as regulatory attention shifted from monitoring firms' adherence to rules and principles towards scrutinising organisational purpose and outcomes. This required firms to initiate sweeping programmes of cultural change.

So, while ESG may seem like new territory for compliance, it is really a natural extension of the strategic direction the role has taken over the past decade, as the overlaps between ESG and broader financial conduct and financial crime compliance make plain. Indeed, NGOs such as Transparency International increasingly highlight the interactions between bribery and corruption, poor governance, and negative environmental and social impacts.

The emergence of ESG, then, is simply a new frontier in compliance's ongoing mission: to help the right business be conducted in the right way. ●



Pekka Dare
President,
International Compliance Association

Four defining trends for the future of regulation

Increasing complexity and higher volumes of data have entered the regulation conversation, compelling financial institutions to shift their compliance strategies

The pace and complexity of regulation that's built up since the global financial crisis has made it harder than ever for financial firms to manage compliance – from trade reporting mismatches to sprawling and increasingly outdated systems, financial institutions are assessing if there may be a better way to handle regulatory change.

Paul Rennison, director of product management at deltaconX, walks through some of the key regulatory and compliance developments that the C-suite will need to be prepared for in the coming months.

01 Data standardisation goes global The wave of financial regulation that came out in the wake of the global financial crisis, such as the Dodd-Frank Act in the US and the European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR) in the EU, has created a mountain of reporting requirements that are expensive to comply with, says Rennison. One of the shortcomings with those rules is a lack of standardisation: trades could be reported by both counterparties in slightly different ways, resulting in significant amounts of reporting data that doesn't match up, he explains.

As regulators seek to refresh those rules, the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) and the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructure (CPMI) are working together to create a common lexicon for trade reporting to establish greater data harmonisation across jurisdictions. This can improve accuracy but also reduce the expense of having to retain and manage complex data sets that vary depending on where the trade took place. "Standardising this makes it easier for an apple to equal an apple wherever you trade that apple," says Rennison.

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Standardising this makes it easier for an apple to equal an apple wherever you trade that apple



02 'The growth of grey IT' Organisations have fewer resources at their disposal after many people left the industry during the pandemic, while the pace of regulatory change remains relentless, says Rennison. "It's never a single project within a firm; it's a programme of work," he says. "It's like painting the Forth Bridge - you get to the end and look back, and you have to go and start again."

This ongoing monitoring and managing of rule changes is expensive. Systems that were robust when post-financial-crisis regulations were first implemented are growing outdated. "It is hard to get continuing reinvestment: you get stuff bolted on to keep it going, so you get the growth of grey IT which becomes even more expensive to maintain as it starts to die," says Rennison. Organisations need to start reassessing their approach to technology and how to manage compliance where change is constant, and costs continue to surge.

03 Outsourcing strategies for uncertain times

The cost of managing in-house compliance systems is prompting many organisations to consider outsourcing strategies, especially where the benefits of the cloud can be realised. In the past, data was retained in-house because it was deemed to be commercially sensitive information and too high risk to go beyond the organisation's firewall, says Rennison. Over the past 10 years, that view has shifted as organisations recognise the potential savings – particularly as datasets get bigger and more costly to manage in-house, he says.

By moving to the cloud, systems can be lighter, more agile and more elastic, making it easier to scale in tandem with

the growth in data volumes. "If I can get someone else to operate the services for me, then I can take that finite, scarce internal resource and reallocate it somewhere else," Rennison says. "You're taking away a lot of the water-carrying functions – the repeat operation processes – so your compliance team can do higher-value work with the data collected."

04 Driving proactive compliance with AI

Regulators are already adopting AI to support their analysis of reporting data, helping them look for patterns or behavioural changes at both a market level and also at an individual entity level, says Rennison.

The end goal for using AI in this way is the hope that it can help regulators spot incidents like the collapse of Lehman Brothers or Silicon Valley Bank before they happen. "That can enable regulators to start providing warnings rather than just being reactive," he says. AI is also giving regulators more confidence to analyse larger data sets, with financial institutions expected to supply even more detailed reporting information to support that deeper analysis. AI will also help compliance teams better analyse trading data to bolster efficiency and develop a complete understanding of their risk exposures.

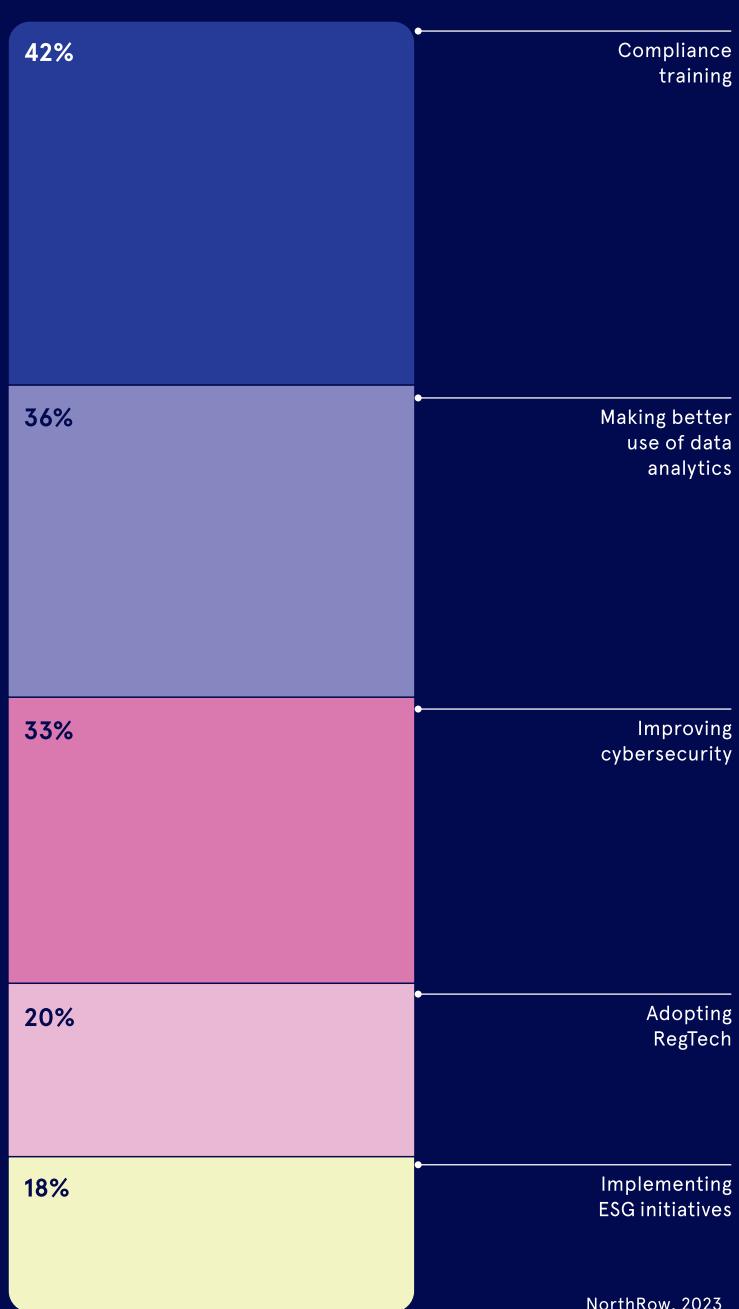
For more information, visit deltaconx/report2023

THE STATE OF KYC IN 2023

Know Your Customer processes have been a mainstay of the compliance function for 20 years or more, serving as the first line of defence in safeguarding businesses from money-laundering and the various other financial, security and reputational threats out there. But with greater geopolitical uncertainty, a rising tide of cyber threats and tighter budgets all complicating the picture, where do KYC teams stand?

STAYING UP TO DATE DOMINATES, PUSHING ESG DOWN THE AGENDA

Percentage of compliance professionals prioritising the following in 2023, worldwide and cross-industry



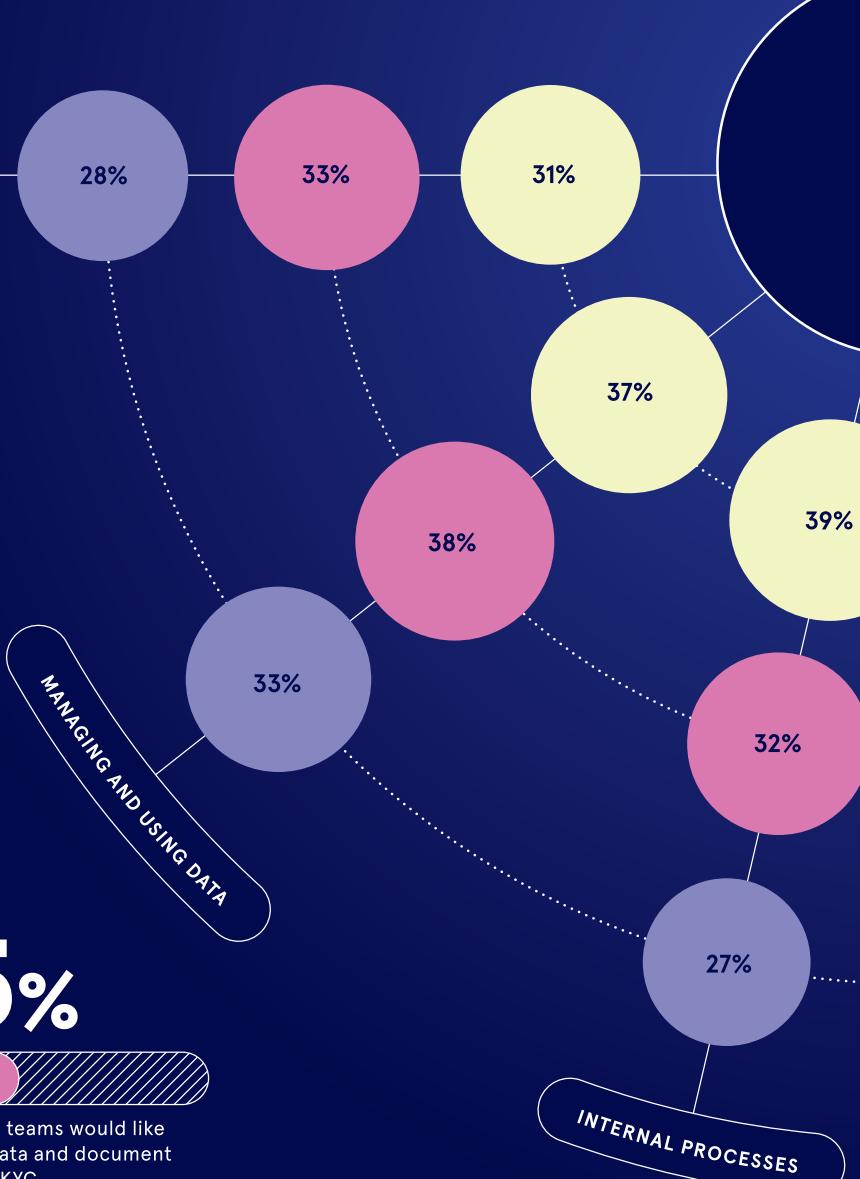
CYBERSECURITY IS CONSISTENTLY THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR KYC TEAMS

Percentage of compliance professionals describing the following as major challenges, worldwide and cross-industry

● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022

ComplyAdvantage, 2023

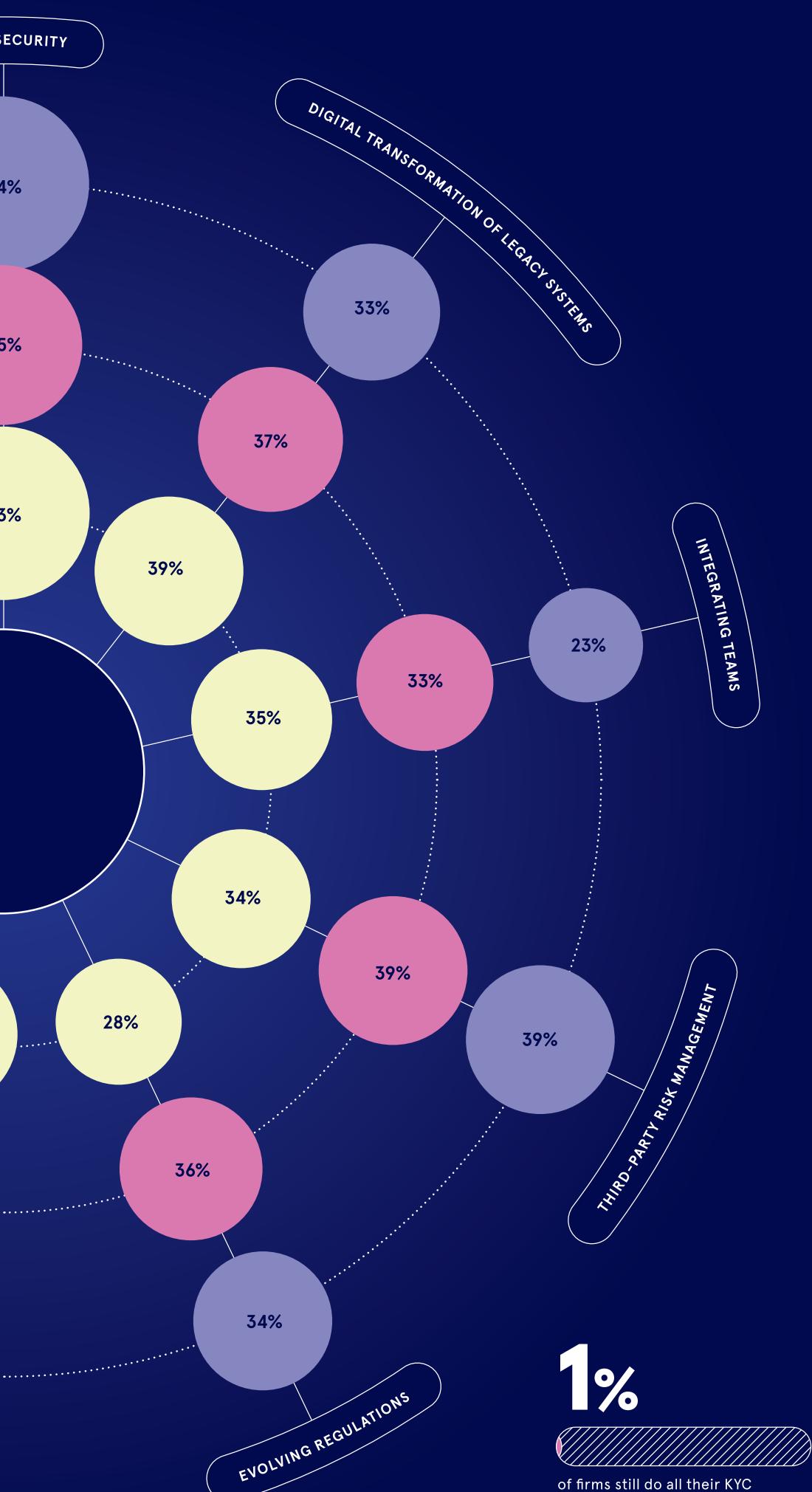
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT



45%

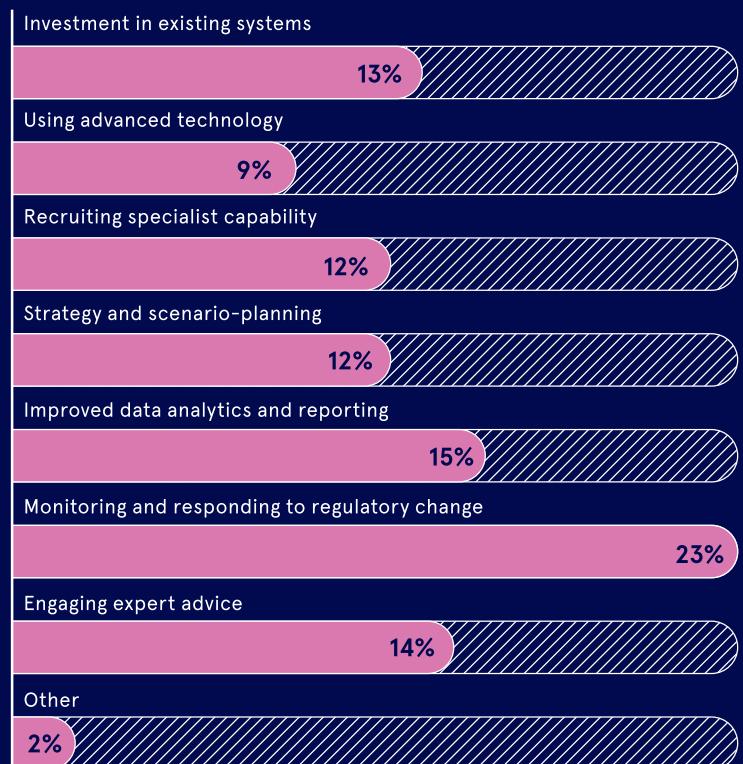
of compliance teams would like to automate data and document collection for KYC

Fenergo, 2022



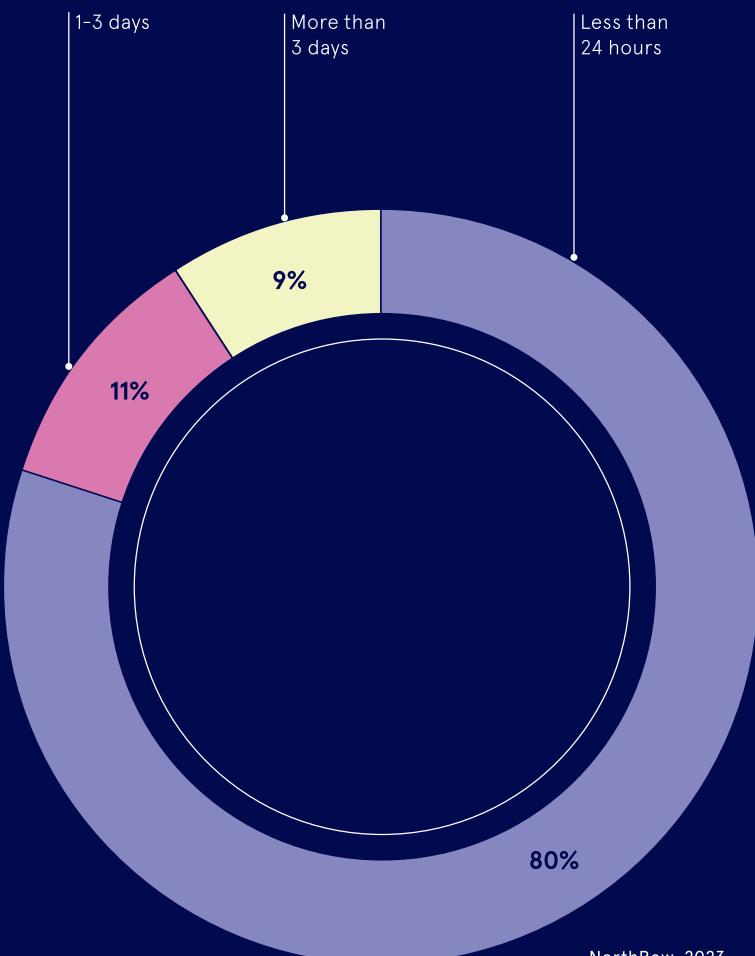
FEWER THAN ONE IN TEN COMPLIANCE TEAMS EXPECTS TO ROLL OUT NEW TECH

Share of compliance professionals worldwide expecting to implement the following solutions in the near term



A FIFTH OF ALL KYC CHECKS TAKE MORE THAN 24 HOURS

Average time to complete a KYC check, worldwide and cross-industry



OPERATIONS

The art of doing more with less

Regulations are changing at record pace and budgets are tighter than ever. To cope, compliance teams will need a new mindset, new skills and new technology

Sally Percy

Keeping up with today's rapidly changing regulatory landscape is a task of some magnitude. Nobody wants to drop the ball, and that puts the onus firmly on compliance teams to ensure their companies don't fall foul of punishing fines or suffer significant reputational damage.

It's a task made more complex by the sheer breadth of activity in the regulatory space. For instance, the recent proliferation of data privacy laws globally has created large volumes of work for compliance teams. At the same time, they have had to navigate a tighter sanctions regime due to the Ukraine war, while also responding to the rise of sustainability-related regulations. This is in addition to monitoring a stream of other regulations specific to the countries where they operate, as well as to their individual industries and sectors.

But while the remit of compliance teams continues to expand, their budgets and resources are not keeping pace. A recent survey by Thomson Reuters Regulatory Intelligence of more than 350 compliance leaders in financial services identified their greatest challenges in 2023 as being the volume and the implementation of regulatory change, followed by the pressure to balance budgets and resources, and retaining skilled personnel.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of respondents to the survey expected an increase in regulatory activity over the next year. Yet 62% of

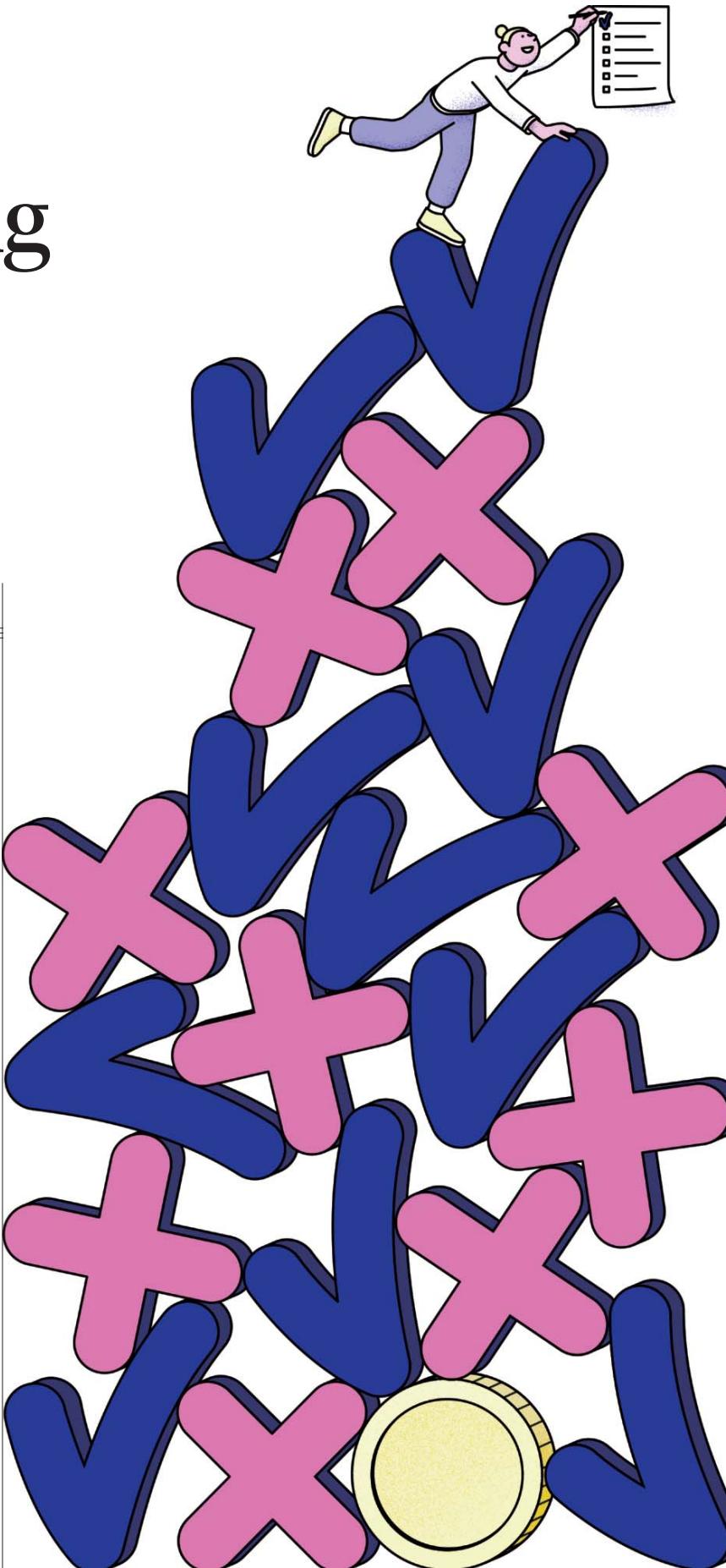
respondents expected the size of their compliance team to stay the same over the coming 12 months, and 5% believed it would reduce. What's more, nearly half (45%) expected their budget to remain the same as today or to shrink.

"The constraints are tight for every company," acknowledges Tom Cowles, chief compliance officer for US-based cloud storage company Box. "In today's economy, we have to optimise our business spend and manage higher interest rates and labour costs. Fundamentally, we have to do more with less."

What this requires in practice, according to Cowles, is ruthless prioritisation of what seems important. "We ask, where can we make the most impact from our investments? For us, it's spending time on our riskiest areas."

Kate Armitage, EMEA and APAC compliance director at OneStream Software, agrees that prioritisation is fundamental to the effective functioning of a robust compliance function. "There's always a lofty ambition to do everything straight away," she says. "But we don't want to boil the ocean. So, we plan, we delegate and we use our team to the best of their abilities."

Armitage stresses that compliance functions must be "ever prepared for change". Her team does this by watching webinars, signing up for data feeds and reports, and attending events. "You learn to keep your eyes and ears to the ground and be aware of what's going on," she says.



If they are to operate effectively with lean resources, it is critical that compliance functions are staffed by the right people, who have the right skills and the right mindsets.

"Compliance is often viewed as a cost centre, the voice of 'no', and the stopper to everything the business wants to do," says Hilary Wandall, chief ethics and compliance officer at business data provider Dun & Bradstreet. "But if it is perceived that way, people will try to avoid it as much as possible and it won't be able to attract talented professionals who like to drive change."

She argues that the compliance function must support the business to grow sustainably. "I talk about compliance as a function that builds trust, if it's done well," she says.

The Thomson Reuters research highlights that communication, critical thinking and internal influence are among the most important skills required by today's compliance professionals, alongside attention to detail, integrity and subject-matter expertise.

Linda Gibson is head of regulatory change for EMEA at BNY Mellon Pershing, which provides clearing, custody, settlement and dealing services to wealth management clients and institutional broker dealers. She advises compliance functions to attract staff with a commercial focus, who can see the bigger picture. Compliance professionals must embrace the "thoughtful" approach needed to implement 'principles-based' regulations such as the Financial Conduct Authority's consumer duty, she observes.

Compliance teams are overcoming their budgetary and skills constraints by collaborating more effectively with their colleagues in risk and governance. If, for instance, a compliance monitoring team plans to test an area of the business, they could inform their colleagues in risk and governance with a view to sharing the scope.

“For low-risk use cases, where the consequence of failure is low, can we use AI to do 100% of that work? Probably”

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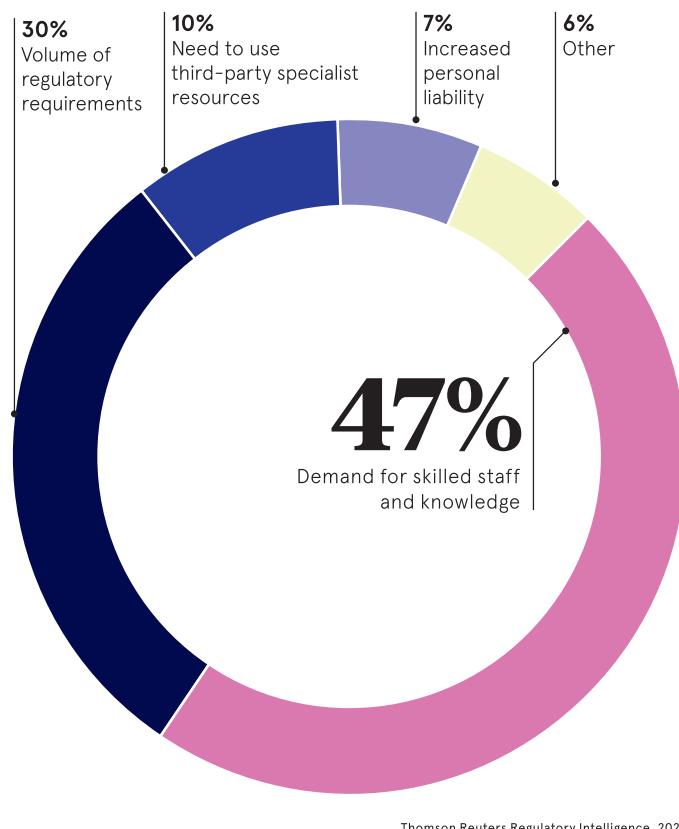


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FOR COMPLIANCE TEAMS, COST PRESSURES ARE MOUNTING ON MULTIPLE FRONTS

Reasons why compliance professionals in global financial services expect the cost of senior compliance staff to increase



Thomson Reuters Regulatory Intelligence, 2022

"Instead of three teams looking at the same area within a year, there would be a coordinated effort," explains Gibson. "That makes for better efficiency for the risk functions and for the affected area of the business, which is not potentially interrupted three times."

Of course, the goalposts for compliance frequently move. This year has brought an explosion of interest in generative AI technologies, combined with growing concerns that these technologies represent an existential threat to society. With policymakers now taking a keen interest in AI, companies should expect to have to comply with some significant AI regulation in future. This will inevitably affect the skills that their compliance teams will need.

"Compliance experts need to know exactly how regulation will affect all areas of the business," says Wandall. "So, compliance professionals will need to understand AI, generative AI and how prompt engineering works, and what the risks are if it all goes wrong."

To boost their efficiency, then, compliance professionals will also need to make better and wiser use of AI, the cloud and other technologies in their own work. This includes automating processes – as far as they can. According to research by IT consultancy Accenture, 93% of compliance professionals believe that new technologies will make compliance easier by automating human tasks, removing human errors and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the process.

Cowles reveals that Box is looking at how it can use its own AI tool to summarise the system and organisation control reports of its third-party vendors. Nevertheless, he's

conscious that there's a "spectrum of risk" associated with AI, which is why the business is still trying to establish the extent to which it's appropriate to use the technology.

"For our highest-risk use cases, we can use AI to do the work a lot quicker," he says, "but we do still need to double-check. But for low-risk use cases, where the consequence of failure is low, can we use AI to do 100% of that work? Probably. But we're still trying to find the line in the sand."

What, then, does the compliance team of the future look like?

In terms of size, it's unlikely to be much larger than it is today given the expectation that it will exploit new technological tools. The cost constraints on companies mean that it is unlikely to benefit from a much bigger budget, either – at least in the short term.

Nevertheless, it will demand even deeper levels of subject-matter expertise, which will suit ambitious compliance professionals who are looking to upskill and enhance their standing internally.

"The expertise of the individuals in the compliance department will need to be better," comments Martin Hartley, group chief commercial officer at consultancy Emagine. "Because they will be the ones who are focused on the strategy and the decision-making. The personal touch will still be there, but the legwork can be done by machine learning and AI."

Gibson thinks that compliance functions will continue to be lean, but will be more integrated with the business. "It's good news for people who are looking to join the compliance industry," he says, "because ultimately they will have an even more varied and satisfying job."

Entity portfolio management made simple

Mercator's knowledge and focus on entity portfolio management services, in tandem with its technology solution, helps global companies navigate an increasingly complex regulatory environment

The last few years have not been easy for business leaders. The industries they work in have been significantly impacted by a myriad of risks and threats. As the consequences of the pandemic and Brexit continue to unravel, global businesses have been further buffeted by a war on Europe's borders. This perfect storm of challenges has created a global cost of living crunch, an energy security crisis and supply chain shortages. In an era of uncertainty, where nothing is what it was, large-scale regulatory changes are emerging across the entire financial services sector.

In this challenging environment, how do general counsels, company secretaries and c-suite managers – who are responsible for managing hundreds, if not more, companies across dozens of countries – ensure healthy governance, transparency and accountability across their global portfolio of entities? How do they avoid fines and prevent reputational risk by filing correctly while meeting deadlines?

It's a conundrum that the Citco group of companies (Citco), experts in independent fund administration for the alternative investment industry, wrestled with for some time before coming up with a solution. Led by Kariem Abdellatif and building on the specialised servicing platform that it developed in the late 2000s, in 2021, Citco created Mercator by Citco, a centralised platform that provides clients with efficient, effective, and consistent Entity Portfolio Management services (EPM).

"What separates Mercator from other platforms," says Abdellatif, "is our people. Spanning 180 different jurisdictions, Mercator pools its specialist team's vast accumulated knowledge of complex regulatory frameworks in each territory into a knowledge bank. This pool of knowledge, delivered through our proprietary technology platform, Entica, provides our clients with unrivalled and unparalleled visibility 24/7, 365 days a year."

Whenever an individual corporate maintenance-related regulation changes, Mercator registers and vets it. Subsequently, clients receive a notification via the Entica platform, which Abdellatif explains "is a custom-designed single pane of glass that gives clients total control over their global entity workflows."

Entica, says Abdellatif, "instantly notifies the company secretaries and general counsels whose businesses are likely to be directly affected by the



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The data-centric platform enables businesses to gain a fully accurate and truly-objective picture of the landscape

regulatory change, providing full transparency on fundamental regulatory adjustments to the right people in the right place at the right time... In this sense, Entica is very much a vector for knowledge delivery."

Beyond enhanced visibility and predictability, the system also delivers cost-efficiency benefits. Says Abdellatif: "Due to significant variations between clients, it is very difficult to provide one single figure for cost savings. However, we have seen instances where clients achieved between 30 to 35% in savings by using Mercator's offering."

That said, the vast majority are primarily interested in the robustness of the framework, avoiding fines and mitigating risk, which of course, are also costs."

In terms of efficiency, anecdotally at least, "Entica is also adding great value", says Abdellatif. "As part of a continuous improvement drive, we are constantly talking to our clients. Many organisations tell us that Entica is so deeply woven within the fabric of their businesses that it has become the metaphorical 'water cooler' where company secretaries, accounting departments, tax divisions, and auditors gather and start to communicate."

The data-centric platform generates unique perspectives, which enables businesses "to gain a fully accurate and truly-objective picture of the landscape".

Abdellatif, who has accrued over three decades of experience in the international corporate servicing sector, explains: "We aggregate a lot of data on our system, which means it can be interrogated to discern different practices. Counter-intuitively, our 2023 UK EPM special report revealed that despite the cost-of-living crisis, high inflation and interest rates, the UK is actually 36% cheaper and 40% faster than the combined average of 180 jurisdictions worldwide for incorporating and managing multinational legal entities. This really highlights the power of data to bring to the fore patterns and trends that we wouldn't have been previously able to identify."

With more and more companies turning to EPM specialists, he hopes that EPM will be recognised as a discipline in its own right. As for Mercator, Abdellatif says that "it's looking with considerable interest to the potential of artificial intelligence".

"In the future, AI may well prove to be a powerful tool that will augment the stellar insights that our staff, our most precious resource, provide to our clients," he concludes.

That is no doubt a sentiment that Gerardus Mercator, the pioneering Flemish cartographer after whom the business is named, would have shared.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Nixed messages



Messaging apps like WhatsApp can create major headaches for businesses if employees are mixing personal and professional communications with clients, raising data protection issues and the threat of regulatory fines

Ben Edwards

WhatsApp may be a convenient way for businesses to keep in touch with clients, but it has proven costly for some of the world's biggest financial institutions. Around a dozen banking giants, including JPMorgan and Goldman Sachs, were hit with fines totalling more than \$2bn (£1.6bn) last year for failing to monitor messages sent via unauthorised apps such as WhatsApp.

The episode underscored the risks that businesses face from the explosion in new digital communication channels and the challenges of keeping tabs on what employees are sharing on them.

While the use of unauthorised communications long pre-dated Covid, the pandemic accelerated it as the lines between home and work blurred – something that has persisted as hybrid working policies have become more established.

"The office is a controlled environment, where compliance has oversight," says Damon Batten, a partner at regulatory consultancy Bovill. "But when you're at home, it's easy to just pick up and use your personal

device and of course in that environment there isn't any oversight."

That means work and personal communications are also blending. "When you have a relationship with a client, they may also be a friend, or at least a contact in your network. So your communications with them may veer between the professional and the personal, especially if they are taking place on these messaging apps," explains Batten.

Given the more challenging competitive landscape and the pressure on firms to maintain margins, there is also often a willingness to communicate with clients however the client wants, even if that means

using unauthorised channels, comments Alex Viall, chief strategy officer at Global Relay.

"People often think that to satisfy the customer – and keep their business – they need to respond on-demand via whatever channel the customer wants to use," says Viall. "Given the proliferation of new channels, this is a complex problem."

While the banking fines were handed out for failing to keep proper records, rather than for any market abuse, there is an elevated risk that if employees communicate with clients via an informal channel they may let slip information that they shouldn't, says Batten. Organisations and individuals may also risk reputational damage if communications sent on such channels are later subject to legal disclosures.

"People need to understand that whatever they send digitally could come back to bite them," says Viall. "So they need to take care that if it appears in a court of law in five years' time, they would be happy to hear a prosecutor read it out."

In addition, organisations need to think about issues of data governance that could arise if employees use unauthorised apps for business communications. "Using an authorised application for work communications allows the business some level of control, such as applying retention periods so that the information isn't held for too long," explains Gayle McFarlane, a partner at Eversheds Sutherland.

This is especially relevant since the introduction of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation and the increase in data subject requests, whereby businesses have a legal obligation to disclose the informa-

SOME BIG-NAME US BANKS HAVE BEEN HIT WITH SOME BIG FINES

Securities and Exchange Commission and Commodity Futures Trading Commission fines for WhatsApp misuse

● SEC ● CFTC

Bank of America	\$125m	\$100m
Barclays	\$125m	\$75m
Citigroup	\$125m	\$75m
Credit Suisse	\$125m	\$75m
Deutsche Bank	\$125m	\$75m
Goldman Sachs	\$125m	\$75m
JPMorgan	\$125m	\$75m
Morgan Stanley	\$125m	\$75m
UBS	\$125m	\$75m
Nomura	\$50m	\$50m
Jefferies	\$50m	\$30m
Cantor Fitzgerald	\$10m	\$6m

SEC, CFTC, 2022

tion they hold on an individual. If employees use unauthorised apps to communicate it can complicate the retrieval of relevant data.

In some cases, employees might be reluctant to disclose messages they shared on social apps because the content could be professionally embarrassing. But if they are tempted to press the delete button, it would have serious consequences. "If they do that, they run the risk of committing a criminal offence under the Data Protection Act, which relates to destroying personal data after a request has been made for its disclosure," says McFarlane.

But it isn't just financial services firms that need to be concerned about employees using unauthorised communications channels.

"Data protection principles and information security principles apply to any business, in any industry," explains Frank Schemmel, senior director of privacy and compliance at DataGuard. "The risk is that if you mix private and business data, you can then have uncontrolled storage and publication of confidential information. In that scenario, the misuse of popular messaging services for business communication affects any company."

That's a mantra which also applies to internal messages, not just communications with customers. If employees are chatting with each other on social messaging apps and it occasionally involves business-related matters, those messages would then fall under regulatory scope for data protection rules.

"The decision for companies to take is whether they need an institutional record for ephemeral water cooler-type conversations," says

McFarlane. "Sometimes you will because you're carrying out regulated business. But at other times there may well be a greater risk in capturing chit-chat than there is in not capturing it."

That means unregulated organisations need to think carefully about their communication policies. For instance, what channels do they want to allow, how long do they want to retain data so they don't keep transient conversations that don't have business relevance but could be misconstrued if caught up in a disclosure process.

Some regulated businesses, such as banks, have simply responded by prohibiting these messaging apps. A study by Global Relay this year found that 59% of compliance teams have banned WhatsApp and other similar applications because of the recent banking fines. Despite that, only 2.6% of respondents said they were confident that banning such apps is an effective solution.

"It's a knee-jerk reaction in response to the regulatory enforcement," says Viall. "If you send the message to everyone that WhatsApp is banned, that is a first step. But you put yourself at considerable risk if that is your only approach. Regulators won't accept that and will apply extra scrutiny because they know it's probably still going on."

Outright bans may also put firms at a competitive disadvantage if their peers have adopted technology to allow employees to use WhatsApp in a compliant way, by filtering out personal messages and keeping a record of the business communications.

"It's important to find a solution to this," says Viall. "This isn't a trend. It's become a part of life." ●

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If you say that WhatsApp is banned, regulators will apply extra scrutiny because they know it's probably still going on

How a risk-based approach could cut your compliance costs

Combining a risk-based approach with the benefits of automation could help compliance teams handle the arrival of new rules more effectively

A deluge of new regulations is increasing pressure on global compliance teams. From the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA) to the UK's Telecommunications Security Act (TSA), keeping up with the volume and pace of regulatory change has never been tougher. In 2022, there were more than 61,000 regulatory alerts issued globally – equivalent to 234 regulatory updates every day, according to Thomson Reuters.

And the risks of non-compliance are growing. For the most serious GDPR infractions, for example, fines can be as steep as €20m or 4% of annual revenue, whichever is higher. This intensifying regulatory backdrop, coupled with the threat of severe financial penalties, is making it more important than ever for companies to improve the way they manage compliance.

"There's a lot of overlap between these different regulations, but quite often they will go to different parts of the organisation," says Simon Marvell, co-founder and director of Acuity Risk Management. "So they tend to be looked at independently, and that takes an awful lot of effort with an awful lot of duplication."

Many organisations take what Marvell calls a bottom-up view of compliance, where managers or audit teams run down a checklist of controls and requirements and tick yes or no as to whether the control is in place.

"If it's not in place, then they will usually ask: 'What's the potential consequence? How likely is it to happen?' And then they give it a red, amber or green flag based on how

61,000

regulatory alerts were issued globally in 2022

That's equivalent to

234

regulatory updates every day

The most serious GDPR infractions can result in fines of up to

€20m

Thomson Reuters, 2023

concerned they are about it from a risk point of view," says Marvell. "That means every requirement and every regulation is treated in the same way as you go down the checklist, which is pretty inefficient and costly. That approach doesn't work very well because the auditor or person asking those questions often isn't someone who understands risk or can understand what the wider implications of the control failing would be."

A more efficient and effective way is to take a top-down, risk-based approach that starts by looking at the objectives that organisations are seeking to achieve, Marvell says. Take an organisation's supply chain, for example. Some new regulations, such as TSA and DORA, expect companies to manage risk across their supply chains. To manage that third-party risk, companies often take a bottom-up approach and send out questionnaires to their suppliers asking them about the policies and controls they have in place.

"Again, it's a checkbox exercise and people can be a little liberal with the truth, so it's a time-consuming process that doesn't really tell us anything about risk at all," says Marvell.

A risk-based approach instead looks at what the material risks are to the business within their supply chain. For instance, if a business objective is to grow market share, that could be threatened if, say, a product design supplier suffered a data breach and the company's intellectual property (IP) was stolen, says Marvell.

"That's the starting point – what is really important to the business, and then narrowing down and focusing on the areas where there could be a material impact. So, if the concern is about IP theft, then that's the risk you need to protect against," he says.

This risk-based approach also helps companies to prioritise when attempting to deal with multiple regulations at the same time, making it easier to develop risk mitigation strategies, says Kerry Chambers, CEO at Acuity Risk Management.

This is where technology and automation can help, by enabling organisations to manage overlapping compliance requirements via a framework which maps the policies and controls that organisations already have in place against the relevant regulations. Done well, that could significantly reduce duplicated effort.

Technology can also allow compliance teams to quantify the potential financial cost of certain risks instead of categorising threats with a vague 'low', 'medium' or 'high' impact assessment.



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Where organisations have complex regulatory compliance requirements... using technology can streamline and automate the risk management process

"When you look at risks such as loss of IP, for example, there are severe financial implications to that," says Marvell. "By using technology to assess that risk and understand the potential financial loss profile, you can then have a discussion with senior leadership about what level of financial risk is tolerable to the organisation. And if you can understand the levels of financial risk, that can help you to make ROI-type (return on investment) decisions about what you're prepared to spend to mitigate those risks."

Given the pace of regulatory change, automation in particular can make it easier for organisations to ensure their

compliance efforts are up to date, while also maintaining a catalogue of evolving risks and mitigations. That can drastically reduce manual effort, making compliance teams more efficient.

"Where organisations have complex regulatory compliance requirements – particularly global organisations that have cross-border compliance concerns – using technology can streamline and automate the risk management process," says Chambers. "It also allows organisations to look at risk in real time across their entire business, enabling them to make much more informed business decisions."

Technology can also help when it comes to capturing and storing evidence for auditors and regulators to demonstrate compliance. That's particularly important if there is an adverse event, such as customer data being stolen by hackers. Effective evidence storage can make the difference between a big fine or a lighter sanction.

"Regulators recognise that you can't avoid risk altogether, so you may still have a data breach," says Marvell. "But if you've got evidence that shows you've been diligent and considered this risk and implemented certain processes and controls to manage it,

there's a very realistic prospect that there will be no fine or a much smaller fine than otherwise would have been the case."

Companies that are not investing in technology to help them manage regulatory change will ultimately continue to struggle under the weight and pace of new compliance requirements, elevating the risk of non-compliance.

"If you're not using technology, then as an organisation you will have limited efficiency. That will make your decision-making processes slower, and there's increased risk of human error. That will hinder you when it comes to making good decisions for the organisation," says Chambers.

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